

VOLUME THREE



The Minister's ENCYCLOPEDIA

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified.

And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

-Isaiah 61:1-4, 6

MIKE MURDOCK

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THE TRAP OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY



Sexual Infidelity Is Destructive.

5 Classes of Preachers In This Area

1. Ministers Who Rarely, If Ever, Experience Strong Pulls Into Illicit Sexual Relationships.

2. Those Preachers Who *Do* Experience This Great Temptation But Manage To Struggle And Succeed Against Those Temptations. Some of the greatest men of God who have ever walked the face of the earth have lived in constant battle with a raging imagination on fire toward sexual sin, like an impatient volcano straining to erupt. Some mistakenly believe that God's presence prevents you from ever having these desires.

3. Those Who Struggle, But Lose Their Battle Continuously. I have several friends who weep, sob and cry in my presence. They over-schedule themselves, fast and pray, but for some undiscovered reason they continue falling periodically into sexual sin. Yes, they seem to love God. They love the ministry. So, what is wrong? I personally feel there is imbalance in their life, and they need private and personal

counseling. I always urge them to go and seek professional help. There is more to it than just “praying through.” This is where I thank God for men with marriage workshops, and *others who realize that not every man is weak for the same reason.*

4. Those Who Do Not Struggle, But Willingly And Foolishly Abuse The Extended Mercies of God. They say, “Everybody has a weakness. This just happens to be mine. God understands. He will forgive me.” *They mistake His mercy and anointing for approval.* “Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity,” (Matthew 7:21-23).

Impurity is paralyzing, destructive and *always* will be judged, *eventually by God.*

I say this to the minister who is careless in his character: God will not continue to let you run wild, free and unchecked in your *abuse* of His Word, standard and laws. If you honestly *disdain* the standard that the ministry requires, I strongly suggest you get out of the ministry, or reconsecrate your life. Thousands of people have had their hopes and confidences *crushed* because of a preacher who was careless, uncaring and loose in his morals.

5. Those Preachers Who Honor Holy Living But Secretly Fear The Possibility of Yielding To Temptation In A Moment of Weakness. A host of

preachers are in this category. God will not let you fall if you continuously build spiritual habits such as reading The Word, intercessory prayer, continuous praise and *keeping your conversations clean*.

You will always move in the direction of your strongest emotions or thought. Stay broken before the Lord. He is your *source of strength*. He will be your *Keeper*.

My Personal Suggestions

1. Determine To Live A Godly, Pure And Holy Life Before God And Men.

2. Expel From Your Home And Personal Life Any Unwholesome Relationship or Entry Point For Satan To Plant Seeds of Immorality In Your Mind; whether it is through television, relatives or suggestive conversation with friends.

3. Fill Your Mouth With Worship And Praise, Continually.

4. Avoid Counsel With A Person of The Opposite Sex Without The Presence of Your Spouse, or Someone Credible With You. “Neither give place to the devil,” (Ephesians 4:27). “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers,” (Ephesians 4:29).

5. Feed Your Mind On The Word of God...Daily. “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy Word. Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee,” (Psalm 119:9, 11).

What To Do If You Fail

What do you do if you fall into sin? Should you tell your wife and family? Confess it to your church? Where does a preacher go when he makes mistakes? I have seen a lot of men throw away their future due to unwise actions in this area. These are vital questions.

True, a few may preach for years without any *confession* or *changes*. In fact, they usually draw wrong conclusions from this. They feel that God must approve of it, or at least it is not that important or they would have been *discovered*. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The mercy of God is *remarkable*. It is also *dangerous*. It can give you a wrong perspective if not balanced with an understanding of The Word of God.

The mercy of God can make you *underestimate* the power of your sin, and *overestimate* your ability of deception.

1. Do Not Attempt Mass Cover-Up. “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy,” (Proverbs 28:13).

Should a man confess all to his wife, family, his church? Not necessarily. This sometimes only burdens them with your own guilt. It will not neutralize your future temptations, or necessarily break your attachment to sin, but God cannot continue to bless you if you attempt deception.

2. Repent. Confess To God.

3. It Is So Important That You Go To The Right Source For Additional Help. I strongly suggest that you ask for God’s direction in finding a

respected and trusted counselor who can direct you into your *Recovery*.

4. You Also Need To Give Yourself To The Receiving of Godly Information Through Ministry Resources That Are Available On This Subject.

Never Involve Someone In Your Problem Unless You Honestly Believe That They Can Become A Part of Your Answer.

Homosexuality

I have spoken at various Bible colleges across the country and in many crusades. I have experienced very few involved in this sin who would approach me or address the issue; probably through fear of exposure, humiliation or embarrassment, or maybe a sense of futility and hopelessness. I do understand, however, from letters I have received that this problem is continuing to grow, even in Bible schools.

Homosexuality is a sin. It is a horrible sin which God will judge, in fact, rather harshly according to the Scriptures. "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination," (Leviticus 18:22). "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them," (Leviticus 20:13).

It can be *forgiven*, but it must be *confronted*. If you have tendencies toward homosexuality, I urge you to seek immediate help and deliverance. You can be set free through the *power of The Holy Spirit*, regardless of your background or influences.

Wisdom Keys To Remember

- ▶ *An Unconquered Weakness Always Births A Tragedy.*
- ▶ *The Atmosphere You Create Determines The Future of Your Weakness.*
- ▶ *Where You Are Determines What Grows Within You—Your Weakness or Your Strength.*
- ▶ *You Cannot Have A Great Life Unless You Have A Pure Life; You Cannot Have A Pure Life Unless You Have A Pure Mind; You Cannot Have A Pure Mind Unless You Wash It Daily With The Word of God.*

RECOMMENDED INVESTMENTS:

The Sex Trap (Book/B-03/32 pg/\$3)

31 Scriptures Every Teen Should Memorize (Book/B-185/32 pg/\$3)

Life As A Christian Single (CDS/CD-05/\$30)

Supernatural Secrets For Singles Only (CDS/CD-09/\$30)

Seven Lies Satan Wants Every Teenager to Believe
(CDS/CD-22/\$30)

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SINGLE MINISTERS

The Purpose of Relationship Is To Multiply What You Are.

“And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him,” (Genesis 2:18). (See also 1 Corinthians 7:1-2, 7-9, 27-28, 32-34.)

I have traveled as a “single evangelist” for over twenty-nine years. It is not easy sometimes. That is why I feel that the “single minister” needs to give careful thought to this material. I want to add a few special notes for the single pastor, evangelist, missionary; in particular to the young men rather than the young women, preferably to those who have never been married rather than those who are divorced or widowed.

It is clear in Genesis that we are created for relationship; mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles, husband and wife. People are relationship-oriented. God implies that it is unproductive for a man to be alone, there is *power in unity*. “And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight,” (Leviticus 26:8).

Is it not interesting how The Word of God promotes “people-togetherness?”

“How should one chase a thousand, and two put

ten thousand to flight,” (Deuteronomy 32:30).

Are Two Better Than One?

“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken,” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

Solomon said it this way. “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord,” (Proverbs 18:22).

It seems that Paul and God are contradicting each other in 1 Corinthians 7, but not really. God is establishing the need for relationship; the advantages, the joy of a united marriage. Paul is dealing with another subject, anxiety over your future. He is simply saying “Concentrate on your present advantages.” Do not allow fear, uncertainty and doubt to limit your ability to be used of God in your present circumstances.

I suggest if you are having great difficulty with single life, then you should secure the books of Harold Ivan Smith, who also has written under the name of Jason Towner. He is especially good for those who have experienced divorce and find yourself thrust back into the single cycle of life. Harold is extraordinary in his understanding of singleness.

After 13 years of marriage, I was suddenly thrust into singleness over twenty-seven years ago. It was shocking; emotionally, mentally, physically, spiritually and financially. I began to lose my motivation. My

desire to accomplish great dreams dwindled. Do not let anyone kid you; a companion can make a big difference in your life. That is, *the right one*. Just as the wrong companion can de-energize, sap and drain your gifts, time and energy, the right companion can be like a magnifying glass multiplying your productivity, joy and happiness.

It is important to remember that single life is usually seasonal and not necessarily a state of permanence. It is a *place of passage*. It is a time of learning, feeling, sensing and growing. However, it is only a part of your future.

10 Advantages of Singleness

Paul implies that a young man should concentrate on his ministry during his single life and not become obsessed for a wife. He discourages anxiety and worry about a mate. What are the advantages of being single in the ministry?

1. More Free Time To Concentrate On Special Projects And Tasks.

2. Less Financial Responsibility And Concern. Marriage is expensive. Medical and life insurance, an extra car (and those expenses incurred in maintaining an extra automobile), clothing, cosmetics, additional travel expense, children's food, schooling, larger home, more furnishings. Believe me, expenses multiply after marriage!

3. Increases Your Ability To Concentrate With Fewer Distractions...*No distractions before entering the pulpit.* If you have never been married, you genuinely do not know the added responsibility of a family. For instance, just as your family gets into the

car to go to church, invariably your mate and/or children will begin an avalanche of their worries, concerns and complaints into your Spirit. Naturally, your compassion will tolerate it; however, it can significantly affect your focus on the service ahead. If you are single, you will experience a big difference in peace and contentment prior to the services.

4. Increases The Opportunity To Minister To Your Own Parents And Family. Since I have become single, I have been able to spend more time and finances to encourage and bless my own family. When you are married, your responsibilities are primarily to your wife and family. “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife,” (Mark 10:7).

5. Traveling Becomes Extremely Easy Since You Can Travel On Your Own Time Schedule.

6. None of Those Infamous Frustrating Moments of Waiting For Others To Get Dressed, Etc.!

7. Special Personal Interest Projects Can Be More Easily Pursued; such as local college classes, speed reading courses. These are things which are a little easier to schedule when you are alone.

8. Increases More Varied Friendship And Business Acquaintances Because of Your Mobility.

9. Enables You To Minister More Effectively To Other Singles, The Divorced And Those In Widowhood.

10. Increases Your Influence With Youth. Young people tend to listen more to another single than they do to someone who is married.

10 Disadvantages of Singleness

1. Increases Your Tendency Toward Selfishness. (Singleness deprives you of the joys of giving.)

2. Imbalance In Your Viewpoint And Perspective. (You need the opinions of others to help you through your blind spots.)

3. Lack of A Primary Motivating Influence Toward Your Calling, Dreams And Goals.

4. Loneliness.

5. Vulnerability To Temptations That Could Destroy Your Ministry. Singleness opens you up to “groupies,” those members of the opposite sex who constantly hassle you for attention, becoming a distraction to you and your calling.

6. Increases Possibility of Depression Due To Lack of Profitable Exchange And Observations.

7. Lack of Corrective Influence Slows Your Progress In Self-Improvement Efforts. We all need those who can “sandpaper” our rough edges down, and I believe this is one of the great advantages of marriage.

8. Feeling Unneeded And Unimportant To Others. When you have no one who needs or receives your personal ministry, there is no sense of fulfillment or usefulness. I have learned this the difficult way. Regardless of how many thousands of people respond to you in a church service, or TV or radio, when you come home alone at night you will find a great need to have someone who needs and depends on you.

9. Becoming Overcritical of Yourself. C. M. Ward told me that the biggest problem young ministers have is “taking themselves too seriously.” You need

someone to help you relax, laugh and see the humor in life.

10. A Satisfying Sexual Relationship. Do not ever kid yourself about sex. It is vital, vibrant, important and powerful. Shaking hands with people and hugging the elderly is not sufficient to satisfy your God-implanted, God-inspired desire for another human being in sexual relationship. (I am convinced that some preachers unwisely play this down.) I know that one of the greatest times of need for affection, and attention is after ministering in a service. After you have exhausted your emotional and mental energy toward others, you may experience a great need for personal attention for yourself. This need is *not* uncommon. It is a handicap you must confront with honesty, and overcome through the power of The Holy Spirit in your life.

6 Cautions To The Young Single Minister

Many young single ministers have made mistakes in creating unwise situations that could easily be misinterpreted. I want to help you avoid those mistakes. Here are some cautions:

1. It Is Potentially Damaging To Your Ministry To Invite An Unescorted Single Girl To Your Hotel Room, For Any Reason. This may become burdensome to you, especially, when the woman may be your sister, or a niece, or just a friend. I suggest you meet in a restaurant, or another public place.

“Provide things honest in the sight of all men,” (Romans 12:17).

“Abstain from all appearance of evil,” (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

2. Be Sensitive To Potential Dating Problems In Your Local Church. A young evangelist friend of mine severely damaged his ministry several years ago through the jealousy he created. Besides, most people simply will not understand your need for companionship anyway. It is difficult for them to receive your message, as a man of God, and, then, observe your fellowship with a young lady, especially one out of their congregation, if she is not highly respected. It can be *devastating* to your influence.

3. Be Honest In Your Relationships. Do not say what you really do not mean. Do not make promises that you cannot fulfill. More than one young minister has crushed his future through shallow statements of commitment. Remember as a minister of the Gospel, you may be more articulate than the average man, and, your words will carry more weight. Do not crush and bruise the heart of a young woman through deceitful words.

4. Do Not Hesitate To Break An Engagement If It Is Bringing Heaviness Into Your Spirit. A little embarrassment today is far better than a lot of heartache later. I did this one time. Within weeks of the engagement great heaviness settled in my Spirit. As soon as we agreed to break the relationship, a great load lifted. The relationship was simply not in the perfect Will of God.

5. Do Not Make Permanent Decisions When Fatigued...nor when you are mentally divided, or in a state of great transition in your ministry.

6. Do Not Be Swayed By Public Opinion of Who Is Right For You, But Listen To The Voice of

The Holy Spirit Within You. I usually determine the Will of God by the peace within my Spirit. It is my personal opinion that God will let me feel His own discomfort about my decisions by troubling my Spirit. In fact, I lean very heavily upon Him to do this. There are a few ideas I have to enable you to protect your ministry during a time of singleness. Much can be said about this, but just follow the impressions of The Holy Spirit.

Remember, in due time God will honor you with the companion He wants you to have.

13 Suggestions In Considering A Life-Mate

Your most *important* decision during your lifetime is your commitment to Christ. The second most important decision is acceptance of *your calling* into the ministry. The third most powerful decision is the *choosing* of your life mate. In fact, *this decision* will have a remarkable influence on your life in Christ and your ministry.

I often hear people tell others, “God will not let you marry the wrong one. He will not let you make a mistake.” Nothing could be farther from the truth. Millions marry the wrong mate every year. The divorce courts are crammed with couples angry, frustrated and wounded. You *can* make a mistake, and do not ever forget it.

I never dreamed nor anticipated a marriage failure. Nothing could have been further from my mind when I entered the ministry four decades ago.

I talk with ministers all around the world.

Hundreds of preachers are miserable in their marriages. They exhaust themselves in church duties because of it. Thousands of ministers' wives feel neglected and misunderstood. Some even feel like just another "prop" in the preacher's collection of tools to minister to his congregation.

I address the following questions to young men entering the ministry. I urge you, if you are a young lady, to consider these same questions, in your response or acceptance of a young man in marriage.

1. What Initiated Your Present Relationship? Mutual Hurt? Immediate Need? Or Common Goals And Vision? Many couples are drawn together because of similar experiences of being rejected in previous relationships. Being sensitive, they reach out to each other for comfort. This has immediate advantages for both. However, believe me, it is not enough to build a strong marriage.

Do not be deceived either by the strong physical desires that you feel. Many relationships begin in a season of loneliness, the need to be held and touched. Someone said, that a relationship should experience different seasons before a commitment to marriage.

I believe the most *important* ingredient in a marriage is to have the same *magnificent obsession, common vision and goals*. Your *methods* to achieve that vision and goal may differ, but it is so vital that you are *going the same direction*.

2. Does The Conversation That Excites You Produce The Same Joy Within Her? You hear it often. A woman hates football; her husband loves it. Those characteristics usually show up before marriage, but most refuse to face these differences. I happen to be

extremely focused in my ministry. I live, eat and breathe the work of God, twenty-four hours a day. I am not interested in talking about anything else. It is important in my dating, that I *recognize that* as a *permanent trait* within me. Regardless of how much I like, or enjoy company with someone, if this *trait becomes burdensome* to them or me, the relationship is probably incompatible.

3. Does Your Relationship Have A Fulfilling And Satisfying Balance Between Serious Exchange And Fun Times Together? You will find some friends to be extremely happy, fun loving and uplifting. You will find others to be brilliant, thought provoking and mentally stimulating. You will need both. Avoid relationships that produce a sense of heaviness within your spirit. Likewise, do not expect ultimate satisfaction from a relationship that is always fun and games.

4. Does She Honestly Enjoy The Same Friends That You Appreciate And Respect? Your friends reveal a lot about you. When she rejects those you love, she is rejecting what you are all about.

5. Are You Excited And Fulfilled With Her Companionship Publicly, As Well As Privately? Marriage is more than a bedroom and a kitchen. Marriage involves others, socially with friends, with congregations that you may pastor. It is so important that you feel comfortable with her in every setting.

6. Is Her Interest In Personal Growth And Self-Improvement Compatible With Your Own Needs? You will be different tomorrow than you are today.

► *Information* will change you.

- ▶ *Experiences* will change you.
- ▶ *Relationships* will change you.

It is vital that she share your same appetite for growth.

7. Does She Mute The Flow of Your Energy or Unleash It? The mate *God chooses* for you will *ignite* you in your pursuit of your dreams and goals. That is the purpose of relationship—*To Multiply What You Are*.

8. Does She Increase Your God-Consciousness And Desire To Do The Will of God For Your Life?

9. Are You Comfortable With Her Family? When you experience conflict, inevitably, she will return to the strongest relationship she has known. If this troubles you, be cautious. Few people will go to the trouble to know the family of their future mate before their marriage. Personally, I think this is one of the biggest reasons for divorce.

10. Is Satisfying Your Sexual Desires Your Real Motivation For Rushing Into This Marriage? Many young preachers have been forced into a permanent marriage because of guilt, mistakes, and a basic fear of “losing their anointing and calling,” if they do not get married. Sexual unity is beautiful, necessary and the Will of God. However, it is only *one* ingredient in fulfilling marriage.

11. Do You Really Have Enough Information About Each Other? Restaurant meals, bowling and baseball games do not provide informative sessions about your future, your goals and your dreams. It takes time to know another person. Everybody always claims to “say what I think,” “I am totally honest with him.”

Only a fool would dare to believe comments along that line. Nobody, but nobody, really tells everything about themselves.

12. Are You Really Reaching Toward Her or Actually Running Away From Something Else?

Rejection, loneliness and financial worries can be motivating factors in our reaching for a marriage mate. Face it honestly. Do you really want her beside you every day? Or are you just tired and weary of waiting for the ideal companion? If you honestly face this, you will be well on your way to a good future.

13. What Are Your Parents' Honest Feelings About The Relationship? I really believe the blessing of your family upon the relationship is *vital* to your success. A lot of people have little communication with their parents or family. There may be a temptation to disregard this, but I still think it is important. They usually know you *better* than you *realize*, and there are many parents who can *discern* qualities that you are *blinded* toward.

In conclusion, I realize that thousands of questions could be asked and you still would not have the peace of God inside you. It takes time with God in prayer to really feel His peace. As long as there is a doubt, *Wait*.

Remember: *God Will Never Authorize A Man To Marry A Woman Who Refuses To Follow; Nor A Woman To Marry A Man Who Refuses To Lead.*

RECOMMENDED INVESTMENTS:

The Sex Trap (Book/B-03/32 pg/\$5)

The Widow's Topical Bible (Book/B-38/270 pg/\$10)

Life As A Christian Single (CDS/CD-05/\$30)

Supernatural Secrets For Singles Only (CDS/CD-09/\$30)

Wisdom Keys for Discovering Your Completer (CDS/CD-23/\$30)

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SOLITUDE

Solitude Is Often Necessary For Impartation.

It is normal to love the atmosphere of friends. Connection is essential for multiplication. It takes two to become more. “Two are better than one,” (Ecclesiastes 4:9). However, your Assignment will require many moments of withdrawing from others.

Jesus withdrew Himself from the multitudes. “But so much the more went there a fame abroad of Him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. And He withdrew Himself into the wilderness, and prayed,” (Luke 5:15-16).

“Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave commandment to depart unto the other side,” (Matthew 8:18).

Jesus taught His followers to *come apart* from others for times of restoration. “And He said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. And they departed into a desert place by ship privately,” (Mark 6:31-32).

Jesus withdrew from the pressure of people, knowing that ministry is emptying. Restoring others requires *emptying yourself*. When others reach, they

draw something out of you. Jesus experienced this with the woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years. “For she said, If I may touch but His clothes, I shall be whole,” (Mark 5:28). She *did* touch Him...Jesus felt something *leave* Him. “And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that virtue had gone out of Him, turned Him about in the press, and said, Who touched My clothes?” (Mark 5:30).

- ▶ Sometimes, you must withdraw from the *pressure* of people.
- ▶ Sometimes, you must withdraw from the *pleasure* of people.

God will often speak to you to have moments away from those you love. Time away with Him will restore you and strengthen you; it will also enable you to hear His voice without the stain and distortion of human logic and opinions.

Sometimes, your Assignment will cost you wonderful moments of conversation and relaxation. It is the opposite of rest times. It will demand all of you. It will require your total absorption and concentration.

I am sitting in my Wisdom Room dictating this to you. There are books wall-to-wall and ceiling-to-floor. I absolutely love books. I love biographies and success books. I love collecting new ones monthly.

Next to this room is the most important room in my home, The Secret Place. It is a small but power-filled room dedicated to The Holy Spirit. He dramatically affected my life on July 13, 1994, and I have been a different man since that day. My yard is large and it has speakers on the trees that play Holy Spirit music continuously.

Yet, I spend my life traveling thousands of miles every month away from here. I spend most of my life

sleeping in strange little bedrooms in strange hotels in strange cities. I sit in a tiny cramped airplane seat for hours, with thoughts of being in my recliner in my Wisdom Room, reading!

I *long* to stay home. Traveling is not exciting to me any more. I have done it for more than forty years. Then, why do I stay in cramped little hotel quarters, rushing from airport to airport just to speak for a few minutes to an audience across this globe?

It is The Assignment.

Occasionally, I feel sorry for myself. Sometimes, I envy those who wake up in the same bed every morning, eating breakfast at the same table, and seeing faithful and loyal friends every day of their lives. Sometimes, I have to remind myself that, "This world is not my home, I am just passing through. I am a pilgrim. I am a wayfarer." It is not always easy to walk away from pleasurable surroundings.

I *love* my staff. It has taken me forty years to have the team of champions that surround me daily. I admire them. I respect them. They are my family. Yet, I rarely get to spend long hours and days with them. The Assignment is my obsession.

Last night, I had an intense desire to lean back and watch some videos. I was tired. I just had an incredible week of meetings. God had moved. People were radically touched and restored. I really did not want to work late last night at all. But, I looked at the letters of partners and those who had written me.

They deserved an answer. Like Jesus, "When He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd," (Matthew 9:36).

Compassion is a force...a *powerful* force. It is

something I cannot explain. When I turned fifty years old I spoke on the subject, “Fifty years: My Memories, Mistakes and Miracles.” I told my family of partners, and friends that I could not explain compassion. When you care about people, you are driven to minister to them; it is something overpowering, unexplainable and unavoidable when you get in His presence.

Satan often exploits this compassion to drive us into achievements that God never instructed. I am very aware that some of our drive and energy can become ambition, uncontrolled and undirected by The Holy Spirit. This has happened in thousands of lives. However, it cannot be denied that His calling can so dominate your life that you forfeit moments of pleasure and things that you would love to be doing.

Why do we withdraw from pleasurable moments from those we love? *The Harvest beckons*. “Then saith He unto His disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest,” (Matthew 9:37-38).

One of the greatest evangelists in history told me of his deep love for the game of golf.

“How often do you go golfing?”

“Every chance I get,” he answered.

“Do you go daily?” I asked. *He has an Assignment*.

“I would if I had the time,” was his strong reply. He trains thousands of people for the ministry every year.

Something matters *far more* than our pleasure.
Tomorrow will last longer than today.

- ▶ *Champions Are Willing To Do Things They Hate To Create Something Else They Love.*
- ▶ *Champions Make Decisions That Create The*

*Future They Desire; Losers Make Decisions
That Create The Present They Desire.*

There is a costly season for sowing your life into others. “And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head,” (Matthew 8:20).

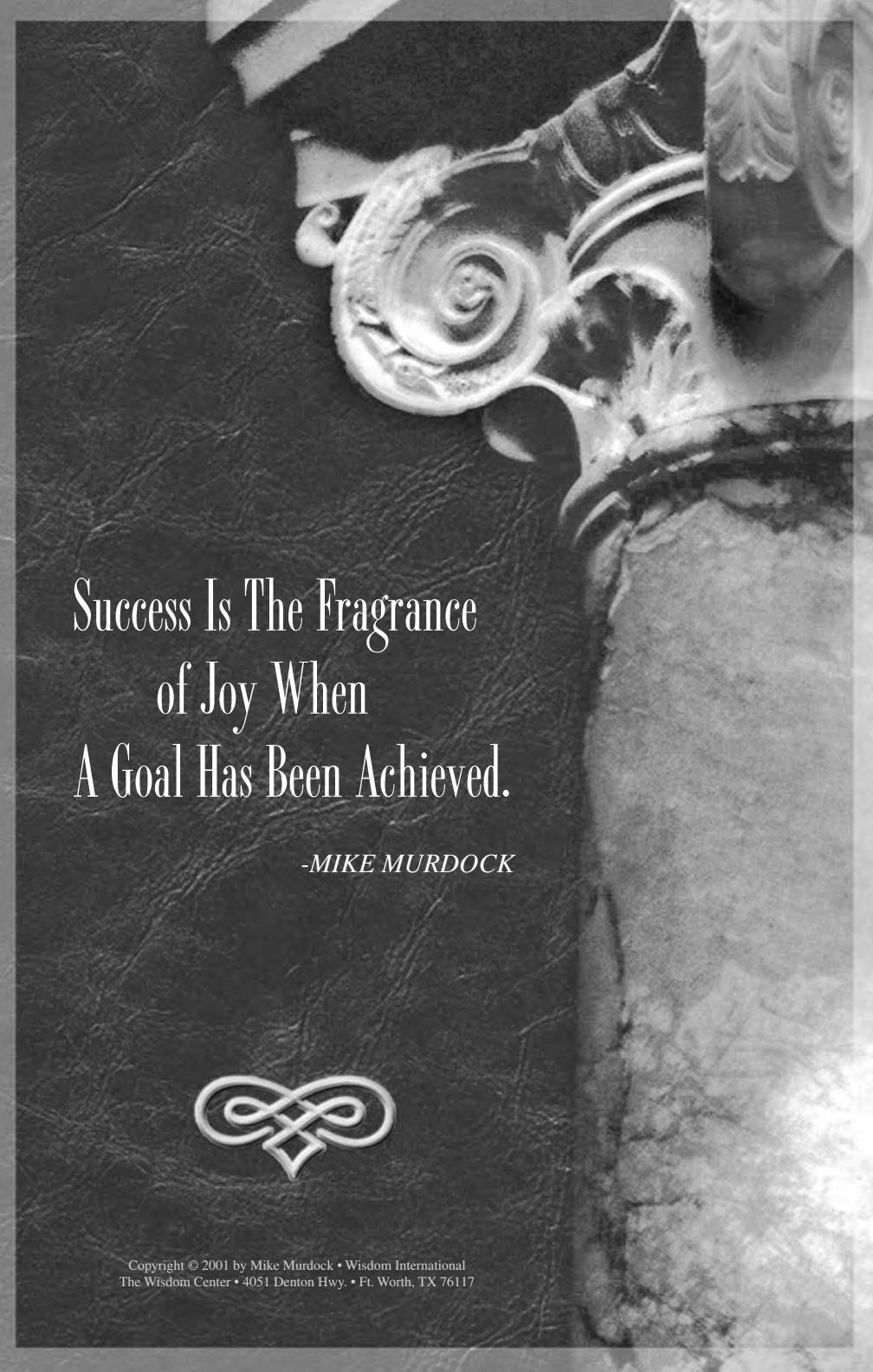
There is a compensation season for reaping from the One who gave you your Assignment. “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not,” (Galatians 6:9).

Peter experienced aloneness. He must have felt the loneliness of withdrawing from those he loved. He missed the vibrant and exciting atmosphere of the fishing boats at times. “Then Peter began to say unto Him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed Thee,” (Mark 10:28).

Jesus guaranteed *reward* on the other side of separation. He made a powerful, incredible and marvelous response. I cannot say it any better than our precious Lord said it that day: “And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life,” (Mark 10:29-30).

You will never regret pursuing your Assignment.

But, it is true. *Your Assignment May Require Periods of Solitude From Those You Love.*



Success Is The Fragrance
of Joy When
A Goal Has Been Achieved.

-MIKE MURDOCK



69

SONG WRITING

The Holy Spirit Planted Greatness Within You.

You were planned by The Holy Spirit before your parents ever saw your face. “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations,” (Jeremiah 1:5).

God has already developed a plan for your life. You must enter His presence to discover it. “I know the thoughts that I think toward you,” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Your gift may be music, writing, drawing or administration. Give attention to it. The Holy Spirit expects you to develop and grow your gift.

I genuinely enjoy writing songs. I just wish someone would have taught me how to establish a filing system for keeping up with my song writing. Every person is different, so I dare not lock you into my particular system.

I will say if God has given you song writing ability, use it. Exercise it...*often*. Do not be discouraged. Unborn songs are like children during pregnancy. They are in varied stages...two months...six months...nine months; some take five years to be ready for birthing. I have song titles I have had for several years. Other songs come in their totality, within minutes. Do not worry about completing every song which you begin.

God will drop the idea in your spirit. There will be a time and a place for its completion.

3 Suggestions For Song Writers

1. In Your Filing Cabinet Keep A File For Song Ideas, Another File For Songs Completed.

2. Become A Member of A Song Writers Association. I suggest that you become a member of ASCAP (American Society of Composers and Publishers at One Lincoln Plaza, New York, New York 10023), BMI or SESAC. I am a member of ASCAP. It costs to become a member, but it is certainly worth it. (These are the organizations who monitor the radio and television industry to listen for your songs being sung. They will pay you the royalties each quarter if your song is being used publicly.)

The television and radio stations usually report every song that they play and send the report to ASCAP, etc. ASCAP then determines the royalties to be paid to you.

3. Every Time A Strong Song Idea or Tune Comes To You, Record It And File It. Do not try to remember the tune, style, beat, and rhythm or words of your song. No matter how strong they appear in your heart today, tomorrow it will be easy to forget. Many incredible songs have been lost through neglect.

How To Get Artists To Record Your Songs

To get other people to record your songs I make the following suggestions.

1. Listen Carefully To The Artist You Are Interested In. Get a feeling for the strongest subject on their mind, the type of music they sing, and select a song appropriate to the vocal skill or musical ability of that particular artist.

2. Have A Basic Lead Sheet Drawn Up Complete With The Lyrics And How The Song Goes.

3. Record It On A Cassette or CD. (Make the recording a good one.) It does not have to be detailed or an expensive demo tape, but it needs to be clear and unmuffled.

4. Create A Biographical Sketch of Yourself. There should be a biographical sketch of yourself included, so that the artist will know that you are not just one of thousands who had a song idea in the night and sent it to them. Value their time. Respect the artist enough to give him the information he deserves about you when you send the song packet to him.

5. Acquire Contact Information. I suggest you also call the office of the artist. Verify the name of the person who monitors the songs that are received for consideration. After getting this person's name, address the package to them personally when you write. (Sometimes, you can get that name through the record company of the artist.)

To help establish your credibility, it is sometimes wise even to send a photograph of you with someone else who is known, accepted and popular, so that the artist will realize others are aware of your talent as a song writer, etc.

Many times producers from various record

companies appreciate getting to know you and your music, if you will take the time to find out who they are and share the gift of your song writing with them.

Sheet Music

I have a number of songs out in sheet music as well as songbooks. I have not found it to be extremely advantageous financially or otherwise. There are some people such as Bill Gaither, Andrae Crouch, Dottie Rambo, etc., whose entire life is productive in that area, and their sheet music continues as a stream from their music ministry.

I would encourage you not to spend a lot of money on sheet music unless you have a market to sell it or unless there is a desire for it from the public. (You can usually print a thousand or more pieces of your sheet music for about \$300 or so.)

Recording Your Music

There are many different schools of thought along this line. Most of today's popular artists did not start off popular, neither did they start off investing \$100,000 in their recording projects. They started off with one song or two on a single recording on radio stations, or even inexpensive recording projects produced for home listening.

I have recorded about twenty to thirty projects, plus been a musician on twenty others over the years. I think recording a CD can be a wonderful experience. It is also a costly experience unless you are able to market your own project and have a place to sell it.

You can easily go into a studio, record an

inexpensive basic cassette or CD with five or six instruments, present it in your crusades or to your church, for a very small, nominal price compared to an expensive recording project. I recommend you do this until you build up a demand for a more expensive product.

9 Important Facts Concerning Your Gifts, Talents And Skills

1. Remember Nobody Else Is Aware of All The Gifts The Holy Spirit Has Placed Within You. The teacher of famous opera singer, Enrico Caruso, said Caruso had no voice and could not sing.

Walt Disney was fired by a newspaper for “lacking ideas.”

An expert said of famous football coach, Vince Lombardi: “He possesses minimal knowledge. Lacks motivation.”

Regarding Fred Astaire—a 1933 memo from the MGM testing director said, “Can’t act. Slightly bald. Can dance a little.”

Louisa May Alcott, the author of the famous book, *Little Women*, was told by her family that she should find a job as a servant or a seamstress.

The teacher of the famous musician, Beethoven, called him hopeless as a composer.

2. Realize That Your Gifts May Not Surface Immediately But Over A Period of Time. Eighteen publishers turned down Richard Bach’s ten thousand word story about a soaring sea gull before MacMillan finally published it in 1970. By 1975, *Jonathan Livingston Sea Gull* had sold more than seven million copies in the U.S. alone.

3. Be Patient When Your Gifts Take Time And Seasons of Preparation To Become Strong. Beethoven handled the violin awkwardly and preferred playing his own compositions instead of improving his technique.

4. Do Not Be Discouraged If You Experience A Number of Failures Before You Reach Your Place of Destiny. Walt Disney went bankrupt several times before he built Disneyland. Most of your great achievers have collected a number of outstanding failures as well.

5. Use Your Gifts To Bless Those Closest To You Today. Some spend all their life looking around the earth for a place to land. There is an old saying that few of us have really grasped: “Bloom where you are presently planted.” “Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it,” (Proverbs 3:27).

When you excel in your present situation, somebody “in the palace” will call for you as Pharaoh called for Joseph. “Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh,” (Genesis 41:14).

6. Expect Your Gifts And Skills To Bring You Before Great Men. “Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men,” (Proverbs 22:29). When Joseph interpreted the dream of the butler, it brought him before Pharaoh. David came before Saul as a musician and song writer.

7. Accept The Reality That Your Gifts May Not Be Celebrated By Those In Your Own Home. Joseph experienced this. His brothers did not recognize

the gift of God within him. But, he knew that his ability to interpret dreams came from God. Jesus was misunderstood by His own family who did not believe. “For neither did his brethren believe in him,” (John 7:5). His friends even thought He was beside Himself. “And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself,” (Mark 3:21). Never lose hope because, “The communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus,” (Philemon 1:6).

8. Remind Others of The Gifts Within You, Placed There By The Holy Spirit. *It is not wrong to advertise.* It is not wrong to tell others that your gifts are resident within you. When the butler left the prison where Joseph was the chief jailer, Joseph told him that he had done nothing to be there. He asked him to spread the word about him. The butler remembered two years later.

Jesus Himself promoted the gifts He possessed that could bless others. He told the woman at the well that He would give her water—she would never thirst again. “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life,” (John 4:14). “Know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord,” (1 Thessalonians 5:12).

9. Invest In Seminars, Audio Recordings or Books or Whatever It Takes To Develop Your Gifts And Skills. Seasons of preparation are in every achievers life. Jesus took thirty years. Moses took eighty years. “Study to shew thyself approved unto God,” (2 Timothy 2:15).



Your Mind Is
A Garden That
Requires Constant Attention.

-MIKE MURDOCK



70

SOUND TRACKS



Thank God For Sound Tracks!

They are the orchestra you can carry with you wherever you go. Totally inexpensive—what a blessing it is on television, radio and in crusades. It is one of the blessings of our modern generation.

Where To Buy Them

I recommend Larry Benson of Benson Sound in Oklahoma City. He is an excellent musician, and brother-in-Christ as well. Many bookstores and music stores have them. Many music companies provide them. Be sure that any purchase you make in Sound Tracks is in the right key for you to sing.

Sound Tracks are not to be used in the actual making of a recording project without special permission. Often, companies will sell you the use of a Sound Track for recording purposes. In fact, it is an excellent way to produce a good CD or cassette at a low cost. However, this license is for the use of the Sound Track only and does not include any royalties due to the writer/publisher of the song. Their permission and license agreement is required as well. Many companies also require a license agreement for the use of Sound Tracks in radio and television broadcasting. You will want to check with each production company of any

purchased Sound Tracks to verify their policies.

Hints For Using Them

1. Practice Them Before The Church Service or Television Programming. You would be amazed at how many times there is a mistake, or they are out of sync with the piano, which you may want to use simultaneously with the sound track. I have had a few embarrassing moments like this over the years.

2. Make Sure They Are Marked Clearly For The Engineer To Be Able To Use Readily And Without Mistakes.

3. Remember Some Television Studios or Churches Cannot Use Cassettes or Reel-To-Reel Sound Tracks. Most of them, these days, use CDs.

4. Make Sure The Volume Is Exactly Right In Practice So As To Be Exactly Right In The Actual Service. How many times has the beauty of a song and the reputation of a singer been destroyed through an engineer who started the song too low or too loud, and the congregation sits there in stone silence. *Be professional. The work of God deserves excellence.*

5. If The Wrong Sound Track Is Cued Up or The Engineer Fails To Turn Your Monitor On For You To Hear It, Simply Stop The Entire Sound Track And Start All Over. Then make some humorous remark, such as, "This is the very first time I have ever made a mistake in my whole ministry." Usually people will laugh with you and feel sympathetic toward you. Above all, try not to show your anger or over-apologize. Be fun, humorous and the audience will follow you.

I have had about every experience possible in this area. I was on television one day waiting for the sound track to come on, and the television host had told me to go ahead and sing. I kept waiting, sitting at the piano. Suddenly the monitor in the studio blared out. I suddenly realized the engineer had turned it on in the control rooms only. The people at home had already been listening to the sound track and I had not heard it come on! I had no idea where we were in the sound track. I quickly took off singing, not knowing where in the world the music would go! I was embarrassed, humiliated and the engineer simply shrugged, "These things happen." I replied, "To you, it is the turning of a knob. To me, it is my whole reputation in the ministry." I lost the joy that night, to put it mildly.

I encourage you that if it ever happens, do not try to mend it. Stop the sound track. Start all over from the beginning, laugh and make jokes out of it. It is far better than singing the whole song angry or embarrassed and humiliated.

RECOMMENDED INVESTMENTS:

Going Back To The Word (Music CD/MMML-07/Fifteen Songs/\$10)

Bring Me The Broken (Music CD/MMML-08/Ten Songs/\$10)

I Fell In Love With A King (Music CD/MMML-09/Eight Songs/\$10)

Somebody Cares! (Music CD/MMML-10/Ten Songs/\$10)

The Southern Gospel Piano of Mike Murdock

(Music CD/MMML-11/Twenty-five Songs/\$10)

The Piano Moods of Mike Murdock

(Music CD/MMML-12/Ten Songs/\$10)



Nothing Will Ever
Dominate Your Life
Unless It Happens Daily.

-MIKE MURDOCK



71

SPEECH



Make Your Words Count. Use every conversation as a practice moment for improving your speech.

7 Facts You Should Remember In Every Conversation

1. Avoid Sloppy Casual Conversation. Pronounce your words *clearly*. Enunciate every single phrase to the best of your ability. Each conversation you enter is a practice session for excellence. It is too late to work on excellence when you walk onto a public platform. “By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned,” (Matthew 12:37).

2. Never Speak When Another Person Is Talking. It takes away from the value of your own words. If someone interrupts you while you are speaking, do not insist on being heard. Rather, say nothing. Permit them to speak. Then, dominate your turf.

3. Qualify Others Before Speaking The Secrets of Your Heart. *Withhold* your opinion until someone who values it shows up. “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver,” (Proverbs 25:11).

4. Speak Loud Enough For Others To Hear Clearly What You Are Saying. Do not mumble.

5. Never Assume Others Have Understood What You Have Said. Sometimes, people are thinking about many other things while you are talking. Their mind is not on your words. They can be nodding in total agreement with your words, while their thoughts are a thousand miles away.

6. Encourage Others To Speak Clearly. When others mutter or mumble, speak aloud, and say, “I did not understand. Please repeat your words.”

7. Always Invest The Necessary Time In Searching For The Right Word, Even In The Midst of A Conversation. Right words are worth the time involved in finding them. Wrong words are devastating enough to avoid.

Making your words count in every conversation will increase your skills dramatically.

47 Facts About Words

1. Words Can Poison And Destroy A Young Man's Entire Life. (Read Proverbs 7.)

2. Right Advice Guarantees Safety And Protection. “In the multitude of counsellors, there is safety,” (read Proverbs 11:14).

3. Any Man Who Controls His Mouth Is Literally Protecting His Own Life. “He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life,” (Proverbs 13:3a).

4. Those Who Talk Too Much Will Eventually Be Destroyed. “He that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction,” (Proverbs 13:3b).

5. Right Words Can Turn An Angry Man Into A Friend, And Wrong Words Can Turn A Friend Into An Enemy. “A soft answer turneth away

wrath: but grievous words stir up anger," (Proverbs 15:1).

6. Your Words Reveal Whether You Are Wise or A Fool. "The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness," (Proverbs 15:2).

7. Right Words Breathe Life Into Everything Around You. "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life," (Proverbs 15:4).

8. The Purpose of Words Is To Educate, Enthuse And Enlarge Those Around You. "The lips of the wise disperse knowledge," (Proverbs 15:7).

9. Your Personal Happiness Is Influenced By The Words That Come Out of Your Own Mouth. "A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!" (Proverbs 15:23).

10. The Wise Are Cautious With Their Words. "He that hath knowledge spareth his words," (Proverbs 17:27).

11. Right Words Are As Important As Water On Earth And The Sustaining of Human Life. "The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of Wisdom as a flowing brook," (Proverbs 18:4).

12. Men Fail Because of The Words They Speak. "A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul," (Proverbs 18:7).

13. Wrong Words Wound Others And Destroy People And Friendships Forever. "The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly," (Proverbs 18:8).

14. Words Determine Which Dreams Live or

Die. “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof,” (Proverbs 18:21).

15. The Words You Allow Others To Speak Into You Is Deciding The Wisdom You Contain. “Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end,” (Proverbs 19:20). Solomon knew that words were the difference between his present season and his future season.

16. Wrong Words Are The Reason Men Fall Into Error. “Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge,” (Proverbs 19:27).

17. Good Men Study Their Words Before They Speak Them. “The heart of the righteous studieth to answer,” (Proverbs 15:28).

18. The Tongue Is The Major Cause of All Troubles. “Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles,” (Proverbs 21:23).

19. Fools Seldom Understand The Power of Words. “Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the Wisdom of thy words,” (Proverbs 23:9).

20. Talking To Fools Is A Waste of Time. “Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the Wisdom of thy words,” (Proverbs 23:9).

21. Wisdom Is A Result of The Words You Hear. “Hear thou, my son, and be wise,” (Proverbs 23:19).

22. The Timing of Your Words Often Decides Your Success or Failure In A Situation. “A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards,” (Proverbs 29:11).

23. Influential People Should Use Their Words And Influence To Help The Poor And

Needy. “Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy,” (Proverbs 31:9).

24. The Words of Wise Women Are Consistently Kind. “She openeth her mouth with Wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness,” (Proverbs 31:26).

25. Your Words Can Become The Trap That Destroys You. “Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth,” (Proverbs 6:2).

26. Right Words Feed And Sustain Those Around You. “The lips of the righteous feed many; but fools die for want of Wisdom,” (Proverbs 10:21).

27. Right Words Are As Important As Silver And Gold. “The tongue of the just is as choice silver,” (Proverbs 10:20).

28. Right Words Can Get You Out of Any Difficulty And Trouble. “The mouth of the upright shall deliver them,” (Proverbs 12:6).

29. Right Words Bring Health And Healing. “The tongue of the wise is health,” (Proverbs 12:18).

30. The Wise Avoid The Presence of Those Who Consistently Speak Wrong Words. “Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge,” (Proverbs 14:7).

31. Only The Simple And Fools Believe Everything Others Say. “The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going,” (Proverbs 14:15).

32. Right Words Give You Access To Powerful And Important People. “Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh right,” (Proverbs 16:13).

33. Wisdom Is Necessary In Order To Speak The Right Words. “The heart of the wise teacheth his

mouth, and addeth learning to his lips,” (Proverbs 16:23).

34. Pleasant Words Are The Sweetest Sounds On Earth. “Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones,” (Proverbs 16:24).

35. The Sweetness of Right Words Could Help To Cure Any Bitterness Existent In The Human Soul. “Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones,” (Proverbs 16:24).

36. The Quality of Your Words Reveals The Quality of Your Heart. “An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire,” (Proverbs 16:27). You can read the heart of any person by listening to the words they are speaking about others.

37. Words Will Quickly Expose Envy And Jealousy or Admiration And Respect. “An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire,” (Proverbs 16:27).

38. The Greatest Friendships On Earth Are Broken Because of Wrong Words. “A whisperer separateth chief friends,” (Proverbs 16:28).

39. Strife Can Always Be Traced To Someone’s Words. “A froward man soweth strife,” (Proverbs 16:28).

40. Evil Is Released Through The Lips. “Moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass,” (Proverbs 16:30).

41. You Should Not Answer Anything Until You Have Heard All The Details. “He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him,” (Proverbs 18:13). Accuracy is only

important when adequate information is available.

42. Words Influence And Affect The Accumulation of Your Wealth. “A man’s belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled,” (Proverbs 18:20). This is almost never mentioned in prosperity teaching today. Yet using the wrong words can get you fired or prevent you from getting promoted.

I remember times I was going to give someone a raise until I brought them in and heard the words they were speaking. Complaining, blaming, fault-finding words can stop a boss from promoting you.

43. Right Words Can Release A Boss To Promote You or Give You A Raise. “A man’s belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled,” (Proverbs 18:20).

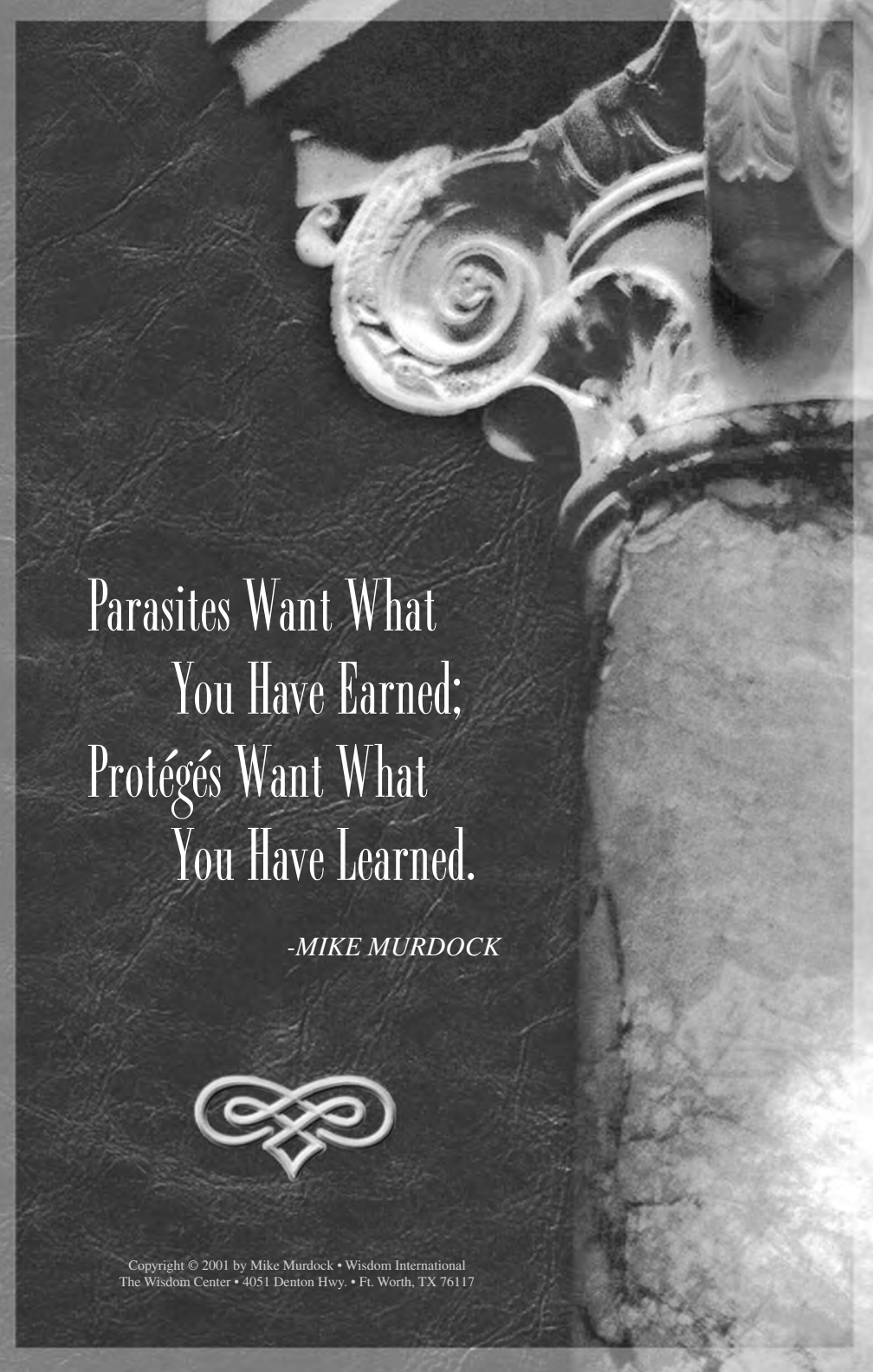
44. One Conversation With The Wrong Woman Can Destroy Your Life. “The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the Lord shall fall therein,” (Proverbs 22:14).

45. Never Enter Into Battle Without Sufficient Counsel. “For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety,” (Proverbs 24:6).

46. The Wise Avoid “Self-Praise.” “Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips,” (Proverbs 27:2).

47. Lying Words Can Poison The Attitude of A Boss Toward An Employee. “If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked,” (Proverbs 29:12).

Remember, use every conversation as a practice moment for improving your speech.



Parasites Want What
You Have Earned;
Protégés Want What
You Have Learned.

-MIKE MURDOCK



72

STAFF



Your Future Is Affected By Your Staff.

A *careless* staff will destroy your *dream*. An *uncaring* staff will destroy your *motivation*. An *untaught* staff will paralyze your *progress*. An *arrogant* staff will alienate your friends. “Know them which labour among you,” (1 Thessalonians 5:12).

Jesus knew His disciples well. He spoke to Peter, “Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren,” (Luke 22:31-32).

6 Things Every Minister Should Know About His Staff

1. Know The Dominant Gifts And Skills of Your Staff. Who is the most qualified to motivate others? Repair a computer? Show hospitality to visitors? Type your letter? Find flaws in your manuscripts? Who can get things done the easiest? Who has leadership skills? Whose loyalty keeps everything bonded together around you? Their gifts and skills were planted there by The Holy Spirit for the completion of *your* work and calling. (Read Exodus 31:1-6.)

2. Know The Background of Your Staff. A pastor friend of mine was troubled. “Mike, my Minister of Music simply will not learn new songs that I want him to learn. I have pushed, encouraged and even gotten a little angry. He simply will not change.” As we talked, it dawned on him that the *background* of this Minister of Music was much different than his. He had no feeling for the new songs of praise and worship. He was comfortable with traditional songs. You see, our background has everything to do with our comfort, prejudices and fears. Knowing your staff is vitally important.

3. Know The Greatest Fears of Your Staff. After much discussion, I discovered that one of my associate’s greatest fears was the loss of consistent income. His bitter experiences of the past made him very fearful of any job loss. Just the thought of being fired almost paralyzed him with fear. He did not have the confidence that he could find another job easily.

In an interview, a new candidate for a position on my staff expressed concern. According to our policy handbook, they were required to wait ninety days before securing medical insurance. That was troubling. Why? They greatly feared a sudden tragedy, disease or sickness would catch them “unprotected.”

Your fears affect your decision-making. That is why it is essential that you know the greatest fears of the leaders of your staff. I had a manager who feared firing an employee. Years before, he had experienced a lawsuit because of the firing of an obnoxious employee. It left him devastated and overly cautious. Consequently, he retained one of my employees much too long because he feared another legal battle.

4. Know The Weaknesses of Your Staff. I had a tragic experience. One of my favorite friends had supposedly mastered a drug problem. So, I finally accepted him as a travel assistant to help strengthen and build him up again in the work of the Lord. He assured me that he had not touched drugs in several years. I believed him.

Late one night, he and I arrived at a southern city. The pastor and several of his board members met us at the airport and took us back to the hotel. Just past midnight, after we finished praying together in my room, he returned to his own suite. The next morning, I could not locate him. He was not in his room. I rode in the car to the church with a perplexed and heavy heart. Something was wrong. I knew it.

That morning, several members of my staff had driven over two-hundred miles to the service. They were puzzled by his disappearance, also. That afternoon, he never appeared. That night, as I finished the crusade, he was still absent. When the pastor and his men took me to the airport Monday morning, I apologized and said, "I think I know what is wrong, but I am not free to discuss it now." I was embarrassed beyond description.

Three days later, my travel associate telephoned. He was cheerful and lighthearted about his "mistake." He had found some friends, taken drugs, and was "out" on them for three days. Obviously, I could not take him back into my home and my ministry. He was upset by this fact, but his sin had become a very small and playful thing to him.

The pastor and church? He is still one of my favorite pastors. I love the church, but the embarrass-

ment to my ministry has been so great I have been too uncomfortable to return to the church.

Some weaknesses of your staff are capable of destroying every dream God has placed in your heart. That is why Achan was stoned. That is why The Holy Spirit killed Ananias in the church. That is why Korah was swallowed up in the earth.

Your ministry cannot succeed beyond the weaknesses of your staff. Know them. Name them. Correct them. Help them overcome them.

Do not stay ignorant of them.

Know those who exaggerate.

Know those who lie.

Know those who speak disloyalty behind your back.

Know those who are envious of your success as the leader.

Know those who will pour out their life for you.

Know those who truly work for you.

5. Know The Friends of Your Staff. Someone else is speaking into the lives of your staff, also. You are not their *only* advisor. Yesterday, a young pastor sat here in my home. He was troubled. He had lost two of his favorite people from his staff. As we talked, it became evident that two other friends had caused their agitation. Their *offenses* were *fueled*. As soon as a door opened, they scattered.

Friends are photographs of our *comfort* zone. Your staff may love you. They may like you, but their friends are possibly telling them *much more* than you are. What are the weaknesses of those friends? Think for a moment. What is the passion level of the friends of your staff? What does your staff do for *recreation*? Who do

they shop with? These are clues to their life.

6. Know The Heroes of Your Staff. Everybody follows somebody. Whose books do they read? Whose achievements do they admire?

Know Your Staff Well.

Keep Your Office Structured

Whether you use volunteers or paid help four to eight hours a day, keep structured office hours. There should be a set time that office hours start every morning for your staff. I am an evangelist, so I am gone frequently and I cannot come into my office every day at a certain time. However, it is very vital that my office staff have a set time to start the day. (The same goes with the volunteer.) It is very disruptive to have employees who can come and go at will. It destroys the *flow* of an office...*demoralizes* others who are trying to keep set hours.

3 Questions To Help Decide Employees' Salaries

There are several factors in deciding the salary of your employees.

1. What Would It Cost For Someone Else To Replace Them? In other words, what is the base salary for their particular responsibilities? It would be foolish and unwise stewardship of God's money to pay an employee more than they are really worth simply because of a good friendship.

2. What Are Their Capabilities In Helping The Ministry Achieve Its Goals?

3. How Do They Affect And Increase My

Productivity Personally? I have people who work with me who can free my mind and unlock my creativity. They inspire me. They help me think *Big* ideas. I have others who may type fast, but I cannot really think creatively around them. You see, each employee will serve a different and unique purpose in your ministry. No employee can accurately assess the worth of another employee to a Minister.

Sometimes, I have paid an employee a lower salary than what I really desired. Because of their inexperience, their mistakes were costly. That made it impossible for me to increase their salary because of these costly mistakes. So, I ask each employee not to discuss their salaries or bonuses with each other. It invariably creates conflict and a competitive spirit. None of them really know the extra hours that another may put into the ministry or the contribution each may make. Therefore, I think it is important that each employee keep his salary confidential. (Also, be careful in your discussion of your personal finances. You may be ecstatic over a sudden wave of extra financial blessing coming into your life. Some will be happy with you for it. Others will wonder why you do not raise their salaries as well.)

I encourage my staff to look to God as their Source. God has many ways to bless them, their other investments, the purchasing of their home and a variety of ways. They can take a portion of their monthly income, and Seed-Faith for new ideas, new methods and new blessings from God...*Our True Source*. Do not attempt to “substitute” for God...He is *their Source* just like He is *your Source*. Do not dare let anyone intimidate you in this area. *Every man is*

responsible for his own Seed-Faith, his sowing...and his Harvest.

7 Keys About Rewarding Your Staff

Yes, I believe in rewarding your staff. There is something exciting about *incentives*, *goals* and being *appreciated*.

1. Think of Varied And Different Ways To Express Your Love And Your Recognition For Their Work. Remember, they are a part of you.

2. You Cannot Grow In Your Work For God Without A Happy Team.

3. They Are One of The Biggest Reasons Your Dreams Will Ever Come True. It is God's plan.

4. You Will Never Accomplish Anything Great Without People Around You.

5. You Will Never Accomplish Anything Significant Without Partners And A Team.

6. Take The Time To Grow With Them, Recognize Their Worth, Train Them. They are worthy of attention, caring and your compassion.

7. Sense Their Home Problems. Be patient during their times of depression, anger or hurts.

You will discover one day that one of the most precious and *rewarding gifts* from God will be *the team* He has positioned around you.

Make Your Staff Part of Your Seed-Sowing

Recently, the employees of a well-known minister became very angry toward him. He had sown a large sum of money into another major ministry. Since some

of them had not received a raise in several years, they became indignant, angry and hurt. Naturally, he was stunned that they would view him as their total *Source* of their finances. He felt they should make God their Source, not him. They felt his contribution should have been distributed to them instead of the other major ministry. Both the minister and his staff had a point.

It is easy to start depending on your immediate boss as your financial source, instead of God. This is deadly. It will make you angry when he refuses you a raise. It can also be obligating to you when he does something special for you.

I shared with the minister my feelings in sowing a Seed into another ministry. Often, when I am preaching in my crusades, The Holy Spirit will speak to my heart to plant a Seed into that local church or ministry. Whenever I get back to my office, I have a staff meeting. I share with them how God impressed me to plant the Seed that I sowed. You see, that is when it becomes “our” Seed...not just “my” Seed. True, the money is neither mine nor theirs. It all belongs to God, but as they become a part of my sowing, it enables them to become a part of the reaping.

This happened recently, just before Christmas. The extra Harvest came! A partner felt impressed to give each of the staff a Christmas bonus! They were elated! So was I.

You see, it is far better that they let God be *the One Who meets their needs*.

Teach your staff that *God*, is their Source, *not you*. Every minister in America should emphasize this to his own staff and people. You are not the total source of income for your staff. *God Is Our Source*.

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STRENGTH

The Holy Spirit Imparts Power.

When your battle has left you drained and empty and you cannot rise, *The Holy Spirit enters.*

“He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength,” (Isaiah 40:29).

People drain you. Battles drain you. You must go back to The Holy Spirit for rejuvenation. Stop looking for people to encourage you. Encourage yourself in the Lord.

5 Keys To Strength

1. You Have An Encourager Inside You. Stop waiting for others to speak good things about you. “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart,” (Psalm 37:4).

2. Jesus Promised That Power Would Come To Us Through The Holy Spirit. “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth,” (Acts 1:8).

3. You Will See Your Deliverance From The Battle. “Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and

I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His Heavenly kingdom: to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen,” (2 Timothy 4:17-18).

4. The Holy Spirit Becomes An Enemy To Your Enemies. “But if thou shalt indeed obey His voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries,” (Exodus 23:22).

5. You Will Experience A Supernatural Rest From Your Warfare. “For so He giveth His beloved sleep,” (Psalm 127:2).

Always remember, The Holy Spirit shall give you strength when a battle has left you weak.

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STRIFE

The Proof of Order Is The Absence of Strife.

“Though I walk in the midst of trouble, Thou wilt revive me: Thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and Thy right hand shall save me,” (Psalm 138:7).

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is The Word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints,” (Ephesians 6:10-18).

There is always a reason for conflict. The reasons

will rarely surface readily. In fact, sometimes it takes years before people find the true cause of an adversity, hardship or conflict. I read an article a few years ago about a man who despised another man for many years. When they eventually confronted each other face-to-face, they discovered that their letters to one another *had not been refused, rejected or even ignored*. Somehow in the mail, *they had been lost!* Neither knew what the other was experiencing. Satan is the master of division.

Again I remind you that one missionary told me many years ago that the number one reason missionaries on a foreign field left and returned home was due to their inability to get along with the other missionaries. Let's talk about this for a moment and see how it relates to your life, and your ministry.

3 Mistakes I Made In My Early Ministry

1. Preaching On Suggested Topics Instead of What Burned In My Heart. I tried to preach what pastors wanted me to preach instead of what I was anointed and called to preach. For example, I would go into a church that said they needed many people to receive the baptism of The Holy Spirit, and they would ask me, "Please, preach on The Holy Spirit." Others would say, "Please preach to the unsaved."

Looking back, I wish I would have stayed with the anointing that God had given me. For instance, if God has called you to pray for the sick, then do not move out of that anointing. Preach only what burns highest in your heart.

2. I Did Not Make Financial Arrangements Clear. If I could start my ministry over, I would be very

up-front. I would ask for the normal policy of a local church, and establish an agreement that is compatible with both of our ministries. This avoids problems in relationships. I look back now and see how I lost several friendships because I was too shy or bashful to talk about finances.

3. Correcting An Elderly Preacher. I used the Scripture that instructs, “Go to your brother if you have ought in your heart,” instead of the Scripture, “rebuke not an elder.” It cost me his relationship, plus others without reason. I felt like he had wronged me and I confronted him. I should have been more patient, and given the relationship more time to work out, and for truth to surface. *Avoid Confrontation With Others As Much As Possible.*

Everybody makes mistakes.

Everybody deserves the chance to change.

One of my most influential mentors, the late Dr. Lester Sumrall, said, “Always give a man room to turn around.”

Permit them to do so.

When pressure increases, those around us are often affected. Their stress then influences us. The incessant, constant demands of others often birth impatience...and mistakes. During these moments, *your mercy is necessary.*

Wrong words are often blurted out.

Inaccurate assessments are made.

Wrong decisions occur.

Think back upon your own life. Many factors drove you to that moment of indiscretion, cutting words and angry outburst.

Permit forgiveness. *Do not force others to live by*

bad decisions in their past. What you sow will come back to you a hundred times. Give them space to re-enter the relationship *with dignity*. “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy,” (Matthew 5:7).

Forgive 490 times. “Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven,” (Matthew 18:21-22). Forgive seventy times seven. Give them enough time. Things are happening which you cannot see. Sometimes it takes several weeks for a person to make a change.

4 Keys In Giving Others The Opportunity To Change

1. Give Them A Season of Silence.

2. Give Them An Open Door For Expression...A Chance To Explain Themselves. They may *not* have the right words the *first time*. Be willing to *listen longer*.

3. Give Them Time To Evaluate Every Part of The Puzzle. You are looking at one part. They are considering many things they have yet to discuss with you.

4. Give Them Time To Discover The Truth About You. You already know you. They do not. They do not know all of your *flaws*. They do not know all of your *capabilities*. They do not understand your *memories...your pain...your goals or dreams*.

Always Allow Others Room To Turn Around.

Few relationships last forever.

It is important to exit every Door of Friendship

properly. You cannot enter the next season of your life with joy unless you exit your present season *correctly*.

Recognize when a relationship is ending. Permit it to close with grace and dignity.

Jesus finished His work on earth. He cried out from the cross, "It is finished," (John 19:30). Salvation was complete. Redemption had taken place. He had paid the price for the sins of man. Three days later, the resurrection would occur. He would return to the Father where He would make intercession for you and me. He finished *properly*—with the approval of the Father.

Solomon finished the Temple. It was an incredible feat. Some have valued the temple today at over five-hundred billion dollars. Solomon was respected, pursued and celebrated. He *completed* what he started.

Paul finished his race. He declared that he had fought a good fight, kept the faith and finished his course. He was a success in the eyes of God. He made his exit from earthly ministry with grace, dignity and passion.

Your ministry will be a collection of *Beginnings*.

Your ministry will also be a collection of *Exits*.

You may not stay in your present church or position forever. You will likely leave your present position. George Barna says the average tenure for a pastor today is twenty-one months.

9 Keys For Exiting Relationships Graciously

1. Close Every Door Gently.

Do not slam Doors. Do not kick Doors. Do not yell

at Doors. They are Doors *through which you may want to return again* in the future days of your ministry. Your attitude during *your exit* often determines whether you will ever walk back through the Door again.

2. Close Every Door With Forgiveness. Unforgiveness is poisonous. It is the cancer that will destroy you from within. Release others to God. Permit Him to do the penalizing or correcting. Like Joseph, recognize that the ultimate plan of God will bring your promotion. “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose,” (Romans 8:28).

3. Close Every Door With Kindness. If a church member leaves with cutting and bitter words, refuse to become bitter. “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you,” (Ephesians 4:31-32).

4. Close Every Door With Your Promises Fulfilled. Finish *what you promise*. Complete your vows...*whatever* the cost. I test the integrity of others by simply asking myself, “Did he do what he said he would do?” “When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay,” (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5).

The Law of Completed Vows can bring you much peace. Sometimes, people can lose you in the Forest of Words. When they have left, questions can leave you baffled, confused and puzzled. Yet, it is simple. Apply the Law of Completed Vows. Forget the blaming,

complaining and accusations. This Law reveals everything you need to know about another person.

5. Close Every Door With Integrity. Few will do it. People are rarely angry for the reason they tell you. Employees rarely leave for the reason they explain. Much is never discussed. Deception is deadly. It begins when you deceive *yourself*; then, those around you. Always be honest to others about *the reason* for the Doors closing. It is unnecessary to provide *every* detail. It is important that the details you offer are *truthful*.

6. Close Every Door With Courage. It is not always easy to close a Door. Sometimes, when you have been involved in a special friendship, it has brought comfort. It has stopped loneliness. It has relieved the burden of emptiness. So, closing a Door requires courage to face the future without that person. Remember Who your true Source is for every gift you need. It is not another person. It is The Holy Spirit, the gift of the Father to you.

He *opens* Doors.

He *closes* Doors.

7. Close Every Door With Expectation of Supernatural Promotion. The Law of Increase indicates tomorrow is a promotion. God uses the opposite principle of satan. The kingdom of hell operates on the Law of the Sweet and Bitter. Satan offers you the sweet to seduce you. Then, the bitterness destroys. Delilah offered the fragrance of seduction, leaving Samson as the blinded, laughing-stock of the Philistines.

God operates the Law of the Bitter-Sweet. God offers you the bitter *first*, then, *rewards* you with the

sweet. Jesus invited us to “take up your cross and follow Me.” Then, the promise was quite clear: if you suffer with Him, you will reign with Him.

Job experienced the Law of the Bitter-Sweet. He went through the bitter season but came out with double blessings. “And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before,” (Job 42:10).

When you close Doors gently, you can *expect favor to flow again*. It happened for Job. “Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold,” (Job 42:11).

When you close Doors gently, *expect financial multiplication*. It happened to Job. “So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses,” (Job 42:12).

8. Close Every Door At The Proper Time. Do not close the Door because of a misunderstanding that erupts. Do not close it because someone *recommends* that you exit. Close the Door in the *Timing of The Holy Spirit*. “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the Heaven: A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to keep silence, and a time to speak,” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 6-7).

9. God Always Brings You Out of A Place To Bring You Into Another Place. A young man sat in

my kitchen a few weeks ago. I was quite concerned. He wanted a position in my ministry. I asked him about his relationship with his previous boss, my pastor friend. He avoided the issue continuously. In fact, I had to ask him the question four or five times before I got a partial answer. At the end of the conversation, he explained his financial dilemma. He had left a job before ever securing another one. I explained to him how foolish this was. If God was moving him, He would tell him the place where he was to go.

When God told Elijah to leave the brook, Zarephath was scheduled. (Read 1 Kings 17.)

When the Israelites left Egypt, Canaan was the determined destination. (See Exodus 13.)

So, close every Door with God's timing. When you close Doors gently, news will travel. Good news.

Always Exit Relationships Graciously.

Further References For Temptations And Conflicts

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee," (Isaiah 43:2).

"(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ," (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

"And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His Heavenly

kingdom,” (2 Timothy 4:18).

“And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled,” (1 Peter 3:13-14).

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour,” (1 Peter 5:8).

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part He is glorified. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator,” (1 Peter 4:12-14, 16, 19).

“And he that overcometh, and keepeth My works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations,” (Revelation 2:26).

“Then I said unto you, Dread not, neither be afraid of them. The Lord your God which goeth before you, He shall fight for you, according to all that He did for you in Egypt before your eyes,” (Deuteronomy 1:29-30).

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves,” (Philippians 2:3).

“For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work,” (James 3:16).

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STRIFE WITH YOUR CONGREGATION

Confrontation Is The Attempt To Preserve A Relationship.

My father is a pastor, and I have discussed this subject many times with other successful leaders.

Most insist that a pastor should never *fuel the fires of conflict* between church members, especially with your board. If a board member is unruly or rebellious to your ideas, make him a *challenge for friendship*. Usually, he is probably fighting something deeper than your idea. It may take a little time, a little more information, a little more prayer, but if he becomes your *friend*, you will both be the *richer* for it.

Your sheep are worth knowing.

Jesus commanded Peter, “Feed My sheep,” (John 21:16). This verse is pregnant with Wisdom.

Jesus *loved* people.

Jesus *sought out* the lonely, *encouraged* the downcast and *corrected* the wayward.

Jesus wanted His disciples to value, cherish and treasure the opportunity to love the lost and feed His sheep.

6 Things Every Minister Should Know About The Sheep

1. Know Their Assignment. Your people have incredible qualities. Patience? Kindness? Some are going through the most difficult trials of their life. Yet, they keep a sweet spirit.

As you look across the audience, you are looking into the face of overcomers, fighters and victors.

How *important* are they to you?

Are they simply *numbers*?

Do you ever call their names before the Lord?

Are you aware of their *Assignment*?

2. Know Their Dominant Gifts, Skills And Strengths. The Holy Spirit planted uncommon talents within them. Do you know what those gifts really are? Do you know what each person in your congregation does *daily*? Certainly, when your church is a huge one attended by thousands, that is impossible to some degree, but your concern should exist. Your caring should be obvious.

3. Know Their Background. You see, the pain we experienced in our childhood often affects the *decisions* we make, the *offenses* we collect and the *fears* that are birthed.

Never preach to needs you do not feel.

4. Know Their Weaknesses. Jesus said, “Simon, behold, satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee,” (Luke 22:31-32).

Peter heard this.

Peter felt loved.

Peter knew Jesus interceded for him daily.

How can you pray *effectively* for those whose weaknesses you have not yet discovered?

5. Know Their Passion And Obsession. You see, your people will invest time, energy and finances into their obsession and passion. Jesus did this. He showed up on the shores of Galilee. He even interrogated His disciples, "Have ye any meat," (John 21:5). He wanted to know about their fishing success. True interest is so rare.

Genuine concern is the greatest gift you can give. It always begins a miracle relationship.

6. Know Their Struggles. You are busy, as a minister of the gospel, supervising many projects, staff members and situations, but your people are hurting. That young couple in the back of the sanctuary may be battling to pay the rent on their apartment.

The single mother is struggling against anger and hate because her ex-husband refuses to provide her any child support.

The teenagers on the back row feel unwanted and unloved. They are struggling for a sense of significance and worth.

Do *you* remember that?

Do you *feel* that?

Are you *changing that*?

The words of Jesus ring clear, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me," (John 10:27). Why? He had invested time and attention in the relationship. "Know them which labour among you," (1 Thessalonians 5:12).

4 Powerful Ways To Increase Your Knowledge of Your People

1. Have Your People Fill Out Questionnaires, Send You Pictures of Their Business And Describe Their Greatest Needs.

2. Keep A Prayer Book In Your Secret Place With The Photographs And Desires of Your People And Their Families.

3. Train Qualified Spiritual Leaders For Different Groups In Your Church Who Will *Know* Them.

4. Schedule A Variety of Meetings, Events And Celebrations. Some have special concerts for youth, birthday parties and graduation celebrations. Why? Just to *know* your people.

Jesus knows you. That is the reason for your loyalty to Him.

Know Your Sheep.

Learn From The Unhappy Voices Around You

Unhappy people often birth uncommon ideas.

When you read the biography of great businesses, they always include the complaints of customers. Those complaints created changes, correction, and ultimately, uncommon profits. You will often read success suggestions from uncommon entrepreneurs. Every extraordinary business champion states clearly, "Listen to your customers. They will tell you the problems that require solving."

I will never forget the teaching of one of the most

respected ministers in my life: “Listen to happy voices for encouragement. Listen to unhappy voices for *ideas*.”

6 Keys For Learning From Unhappy People

1. Joseph Understood The Secret of Studying The Unhappy. It was the secret of his promotion to the palace. Compassion was his dominant gift. When he noticed the *downcast faces* of two prisoners, he inquired and pursued an explanation. The butler and baker for Pharaoh explained their dreams. Joseph interpreted those dreams accurately. Two years later, Joseph was remembered by the butler for responding to his sorrowful countenance and dream. Joseph became Prime Minister within twenty-four hours.

- ▶ You need *encouraging* voices to strengthen you.
- ▶ You need *mentoring* voices to avoid mistakes.
- ▶ You need *unhappy* voices for creativity and ideas.

Each moment of listening moves you closer to the miracle of solution.

2. Never Assume You Understand The Real Cause of Sorrows, Despondency or Anger Within Others. Let me explain. I dearly loved a young couple that worked for me. Continuously, I looked for ways to bless them and encourage them. Occasionally, I would press a large bill in his hand at the airport and say, “Take your wife out to supper tonight.” Yet, their agitation persisted. Nothing was ever enough for them. After much thought, listening and study of their life, I discovered the following elements:

- ▶ They refused pastoral mentorship and faithful attendance to a local church.
- ▶ They refused to follow the principles of success that I taught them privately.
- ▶ They refused to attend sessions on financial prosperity held within minutes of their home.

Nothing you can say will satisfy the heart of the disobedient.

3. Many Pastors Could Have Retained And Kept Disgruntled Sheep Had They Invested The Appropriate Time To Listen Long Enough To Understand Them And Their Pain. On the other hand, many pastors would stop blaming themselves if they understood the deep-rooted problem in unhappy church members.

4. The Best Preacher On Earth Cannot Solve The Problem of The Unteachable. *The Unteachable Always Remain Unhappy.* That is why Jesus never pursued Pharisees. He never visited them when they were sick. Jesus went where He was desired, not where He was needed.

5. Do Not Invest More Time In The Unhappy Than You Do Those Who Are Supportive And Encouraging To You. Too often, those who bless us are ignored. The satisfied are overlooked. The obnoxious often receive far too much time, energy and attention. Be sensitive. That is why Jesus never gave long answers to Pharisees. He saved His time for Zacchaeus and the woman at the well—those who qualified for the *Seed of His Attention*.

6. It Is Not The Responsibility of The Uncommon Minister To Solve Every Problem For

Everyone Around Him. Jesus did not try. You cannot do it. You are human. Accept that. Do only what you are instructed by The Holy Spirit to do.

Learn From The Unhappy Voices Around You.

Strife can be defeated and relationships salvaged...if you will try.



Bitterness Is Deadlier
Than Betrayal.

-MIKE MURDOCK



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STRIFE WITH OTHER MINISTERS



Target The Correct Enemy.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places,” (Ephesians 6:12).

If you watch Sunday morning television, this is readily seen. It appears at times, they even contradict each other! Actually each of them are reading out of the same book, just different pages. Do not let that distract you or derail your train on the track of success.

It is normal for one preacher to exercise “patience” while the other wants “speedy judgment.” It is foolish to waste your energy fighting those of your *own household* instead of the enemy. Do not let satan make other preachers your *target* in your pulpit! Address issues by declaring the truth. Keep personalities out of it.

Facing Disagreements

Suppose you are a pastor, and your evangelist is preaching. Suppose he preaches something contradictory to what you believe. *How do you face it?* This depends on the influence of his statements.

- 1. If He Said Something Contradictory To Your Own Ministry In A Moment of Passing, Chances Are Your People Did Not Even Notice It.**
- 2. If It Is Not Extremely Vital, Ignore It.**
- 3. If The Evangelist Is Preaching Something That Is In Direct Contradiction To What You Want Your People To Believe, Then Schedule An Appointment With Him; Discuss More of “His Experiences On That Subject.”**

Do not talk to him about it immediately after his sermon. When you talk to him, ask him to elaborate on what he meant when he was preaching. (You will be amazed at how many times you may believe the same principles, but the message is lost through different interpretation.)

What if you totally disagree? Then I suggest this approach. “I really appreciate your observations and conclusions you have come to; I am sure your own experiences would lead you to believe that way. God has allowed me to see a different side of it, and these are my personal experiences...” Then continue to share in love. There are rarely any advantages in burning the bridges of relationships. (I regret some tragic mistakes in this area.)

Do Not Make Accusations Without Facts

Many years ago I was awaiting a letter from a partner who was trying to sell some property. They wanted to buy me an Airstream travel trailer. The months lagged by with no completion of the transaction.

One night at the conclusion of a three week

crusade in California, I told the congregation from the pulpit, "Since I have carried your burdens for three weeks, would you be willing to enter into a prayer of agreement for one of my burdens?" Everyone agreed. I then told them that I wanted an Airstream travel trailer, and some arrangements were being made concerning it. The next time I came back to California I wanted to have it with me. Everyone agreed to pray.

I noticed the pastor on the platform suddenly became withdrawn and hostile toward me. I finished my message and went to his office at the conclusion of the service. He was in a rage. "I know the game you are playing. I have been around for years. Son, you are not going to 'con' me." He lashed out in anger. I sat shocked. I had no idea what he was talking about.

Then, he proceeded to tell me that he had, quote, "caught on" to my hinting to his people to give me money on the side to purchase the Airstream. I was devastated and began to weep. I explained, "My dear brother, I cannot believe I have preached for you three solid weeks, day after day, prayed with you, cried with you, shouted with you, eaten with you, and you still do not really know me. I do not need your money nor your church's money. I am awaiting the sale of a piece of property in Texas to buy the trailer. There has been a problem in the property settlement."

Then, of course, he was totally embarrassed. Trying to recover, he then proceeded to lie to me! He told me he had talked to no one else about his feelings and asked me to forgive him in a half-hearted way. In fact, he had told his secretary to limit my weekly check to just \$400 and keep the rest of the money in the church treasury. The secretary came to me crying and

told me this later. The relationship was never repaired properly, though I returned several years later, as a token, to express my forgiveness.

Please, please, do not take your disagreements to the people of your congregation or even to other ministers. “If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him,” (Luke 17:3-4). (Notice that it is necessary for him to repent for the forgiveness to be completed.)

“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican,” (Matthew 18:15-17).

Are there exceptions to this rule? I think so. I had a bad experience with a well-known, highly respected, and very fine pastor a number of years ago.

At the end of the first week of the crusade (we had a thousand or so in attendance each night throughout the week), my offering for nine services was \$350. At least, that was the amount on the check he gave me on Monday.

I was crushed. I had just had a series of disappointing experiences during the previous month. I felt like I could not endure financial injustice one more time. I felt that I should do as the Scriptures seemed to imply, “Go to my brother and face him with it.” So, I

did.

He asked me the amount then that I thought I should receive for the week. I said, "Brother, I am not asking you for a salary, I am asking you to give me whatever came in the offerings this week." That night he brought me an additional check but still would not tell me the amount of the offerings for the week. (By the way, always tell your visiting guest preacher the actual amount that came in the offering. Sometimes it is far less than his imagination thinks, and he needs that reassurance.)

Well, my pastor friend, to avoid conflict and confrontation, increased my check but then "bad-mouthed" me to his friends by simply saying, "That young Mike Murdock is too money-conscious. That is all he thinks about. He was not satisfied with what we gave him." He did not give them the full details of our conflict. (In fact, most people rarely do.) That is where I made a mistake.

Our fellowship was broken for four years. He eventually called and asked me to return for a crusade. I asked him if I was going to receive the total offerings each night! He agreed. We still have a beautiful relationship to this day, but it was lost for four years because of my confrontation with him.

That is when I discovered 1 Timothy 5:1, "Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father."

I have always been a face-to-face, straight-forward type of person. I do not like things in the dark, but I have learned a lot the last few years. Few people can handle a confrontation, especially if they are deceiving you.

The only time I would ever face someone with

something again is if I discerned that it would really make a difference. (Since that time, my secretary handles financial information before a crusade.)

4 Principles To Remember About Watching Your Words

1. If You Are A Pastor Coming In After Another Pastor In A Church, Do Not Permit The People To Dump Their Trash And Comments About Him Without His Presence. They have no right to present a case to you without his side being heard as well. Do not make comments and snide remarks about “the mess he left me with here in this church.” You do not really know what the previous pastor actually experienced; nor why he did the things he did.

2. Do Not “Bad-Mouth” An Evangelist To Another Evangelist.

3. If You Are A Pastor, Do Not Disclose Confidences That A Previous Evangelist Has Shared With You.

4. If You Are An Evangelist, Do Not Carry Gossip From Church To Church.

RECOMMENDED INVESTMENTS:

The Uncommon Minister Volume 1 (Book/B-107/32 pg/\$5)

The Uncommon Minister Volume 2 (Book/B-108/32 pg/\$5)

The Uncommon Minister Volume 3 (Book/B-109/32 pg/\$5)

The Uncommon Minister Volume 4 (Book/B-110/32 pg/\$5)

The Uncommon Minister Volume 5 (Book/B-111/32 pg/\$5)

The Uncommon Minister Volume 6 (Book/B-112/32 pg/\$5)

The Uncommon Minister Volume 7 (Book/B-113/32 pg/\$5)

77

STRIFE WITH YOUR STAFF

Conflict Distracts.

Every minister knows this. When a staff member cannot get along with others, unity and productivity are diminished. Focus is broken. Projects are delayed. The spiritual progress of an entire church can be paralyzed.

I have made a few mistakes along this line which I pray you will not make.

7 Keys In Dealing With Strife

1. Give Your Employees A Just Hearing.

They deserve it. Often, it may take more than thirty minutes for them to get to the essence of a conflict.

One time I had an experience that was a bit humbling to me. I was quite upset at what I perceived to be “careless handling of mail” in my ministry. I found out that there was a personal crisis the employee was experiencing. I realized that I had not been compassionate, or caring, or understanding.

2. Most Conflicts On Staff Could Be Settled If We Simply Showed More Respect, Compassion And Love.

3. Some Mistakes Can Be Avoided If Job Descriptions Are Made Clear.

4. Do Not Believe Everything You Hear About Your Staff.

5. Never Reveal The Confidentiality And Information That A Staff Member Shares With You.

6. Never Reveal Their Weaknesses Which They Confess To You Privately.

7. Corrections Have To Be Made, But Do It Gently And With Thought And Then Redirection. (See 2 Timothy 2:24-26.)

Nothing is more harmful to your ministry than a contentious person. A contentious person often considers himself very honest and up front. In fact, they take pride in telling you “the way things really are.” Subconsciously, they are often modeling someone in their life (a father or mother) who accomplished their goals through *intimidation*. They admire this person and have decided to follow that pattern. Unfortunately, they failed to see the *losses* created.

13 Facts Every Minister Should Recognize About Contentious People

1. Contentious People Often Destroy The Momentum, Bonding And Synergy That Unity Creates. “Mark them which cause divisions and offences...avoid them,” (Romans 16:17).

2. Contentious People Nullify The Law of Agreement, The Greatest Law of Success On Earth. “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up,” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).

3. The True Character of A Contentious

Person Is Rarely Revealed Until You Rebuke Them. If he is a scorner and fool, he will hate you. If he is a wise person simply needing correction, he will love you. “Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee,” (Proverbs 9:8).

4. You Can Succeed Almost Anywhere Else, Except With A Contentious Person. Solomon experienced this. “It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house,” (Proverbs 25:24).

5. Contentious People Discuss The Business of Others. “He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears,” (Proverbs 26:17).

6. A Contentious Person Enjoys Debate, Disputing And Opposing Whatever Has Been Spoken. A contentious person always looks for a reason to disagree. They *ignore* every point of *agreement*.

7. A Contentious Person Is Always The Door For Satan To Launch Every Evil Work In Your Ministry. “For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work,” (James 3:16).

8. A Contentious Person Is Not Walking In Wisdom. “But the Wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy,” (James 3:17).

9. A Contentious Attitude Is Contagious. When someone permits the spirit of conflict to enter their life, they will affect *everyone around them*. I have seen a peaceful household turn to argument thirty minutes after someone entered the room. Happy con-

gregations become chaotic and embittered when one “talebearer” joins the church.

10. Unthankfulness Always Births A Contentious Attitude. It is the sin that God abhors. It was the *first* sin. Satan was unthankful for his position and chose to fight for dominion.

11. Ingratitude Is Poisonous. It can destroy a family within weeks. It can ruin a successful ministry within months. Churches exploding with growth have been fragmented within weeks when a spirit of ingratitude invaded the congregation.

12. Contentious People Often Sabotage The Work of God. Many years ago I heard a most startling statement from a famous missionary. I was sitting under some huge trees in East Africa. Monkeys were jumping from limb to limb.

“Mike, the number one reason missionaries do not stay on the mission field is their *inability to get along with the other missionaries working in their same territory.*”

Think about it. Missionaries who should stay in love with Jesus, obsessed with bringing the gospel to the lost, return home *because of arguments* and the failure to create harmony and an environment of agreement.

13. Any Contentious Person Who Refuses To Change Must Be Removed. “Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife. The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly,” (Proverbs 26:20-22).

Stop any conversation birthing contention. Immediately speak up and interrupt the conversation with statements like, “Oh, it is wonderful how God will *turn this* for our good! I am so thankful for what God is about to do in this situation! We have a wonderful God!” It will be like throwing cold water on a destructive fire.

Boldly confront the contentious about their attitude. Others are bold enough to poison your atmosphere and climate with arrows of unthankfulness piercing the air. Dominate your turf. Take charge. Use your words to turn the tide.

Agreement is one of the greatest enemies satan fears.

Identify Contentious People Involved In Your Ministry.



Struggle Is The Proof
That You Have
Not Yet Been Conquered.

-MIKE MURDOCK



78

STRUGGLE

Struggle Is The Proof That You Have Not Yet Been Conquered By Your Enemy.

You may be tired of fighting. Battle may weary you. But, struggle is still the proof that your Enemy has not yet won.

“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses,” (1 Timothy 6:12).

4 Forces Will Shorten Your Season of Struggle

1. Your Speaking: Words of Faith Build You Up In The Spirit. Faith-talk is explosive. “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof,” (Proverbs 18:21). *When God wanted the present to end and the future to begin, He spoke.*

2. Your Singing: Singing Creates A Climate Satan Cannot Tolerate. Songs of worship and praise dispel demonic spirits as Saul discovered when David played the harp. “And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed,

and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him,” (1 Samuel 16:23).

Someone has well said, “Motion creates emotion.”

3. Your Sharing. 1) Sharing with an intercessor. The prayer of agreement with others is extremely powerful. It is wise for you to initiate the prayer of assistance from intercessors. “Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven...whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven...if two of you...agree on earth as touching any thing...it shall done for them of My Father,” (Matthew 18:18-19). 2) Sharing with a Mentor. “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour,” (Ecclesiastes 4:9).

4. Your Seed-Sowing: Sowing Creates Partnership With God That Involves Him In Your Adversity. “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now...saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open...the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,” (Malachi 3:10-11).

I have always observed significant changes in times of stress, battle and struggle when I have boldly unleashed the above Four Forces.

Never Forget 2 Battle Truths!

1. Your Battle Is Always For A Reason.

2. Your Battle Is Always For A Season.

Overcomers Are The Only Ones Rewarded In Eternity. “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his

name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of Heaven from My God: and I will write upon him My new name. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne,” (Revelation 3:5, 12, 21).

Well, go ahead and get back up and going! Something good is en route from the Father to you today!

RECOMMENDED INVESTMENTS:

Battle Techniques For War Weary Saints (Book/B-07/32 pg/\$5)

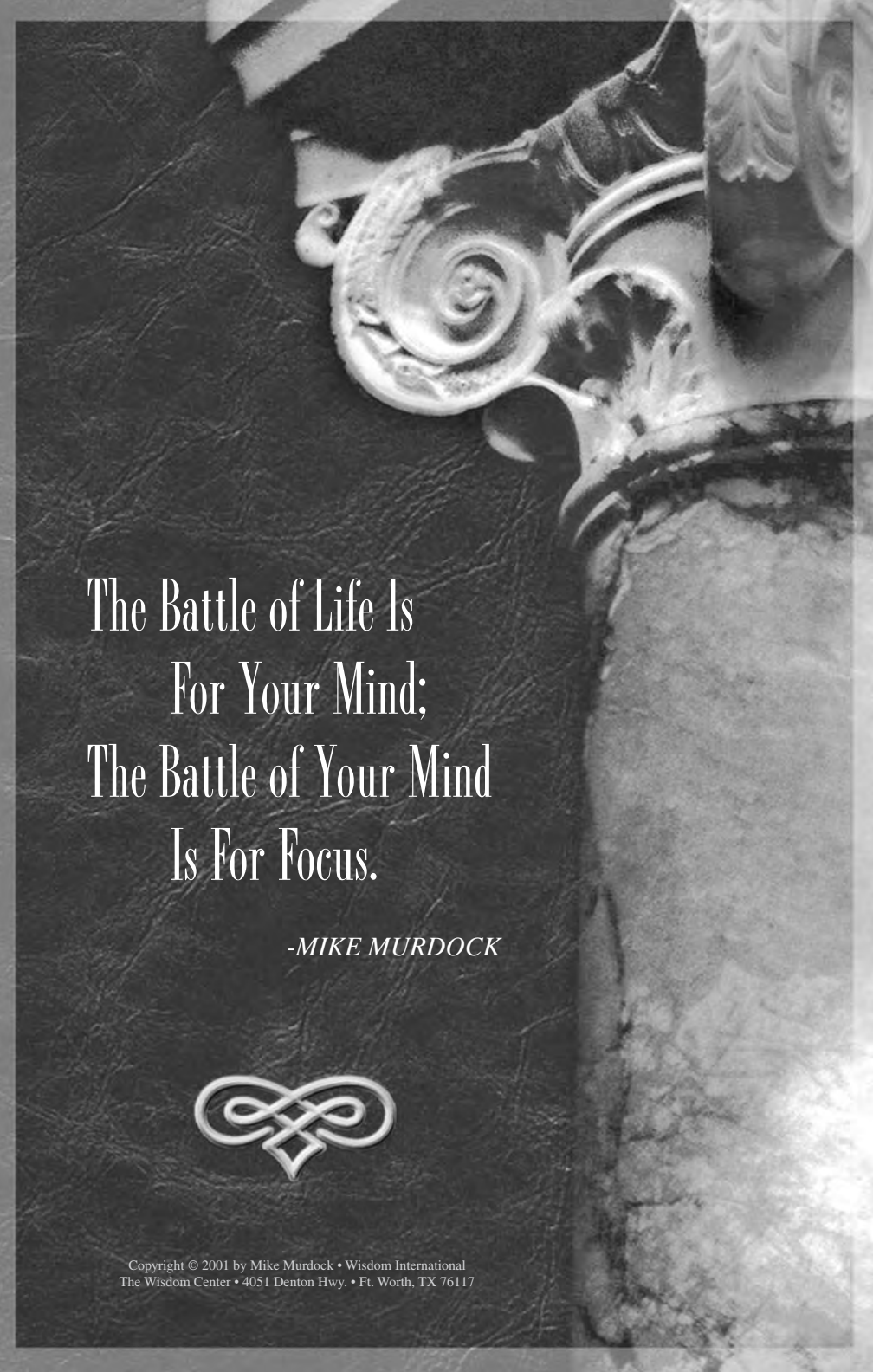
Seeds of Wisdom On Overcoming (Book/B-17/32 pg/\$3)

Wisdom For Crisis Times (Book/B-40/112 pg/\$9)

The Law of Recognition (Book/B-114/248 pg/\$15)

How to Walk Through Fire And Not Be Burned (CDS/CD-03/\$30)

Wisdom For Crisis Times (CDS/CD-40/\$30)



The Battle of Life Is
For Your Mind;
The Battle of Your Mind
Is For Focus.

-MIKE MURDOCK



79

STUDYING



Places Matter.

Where You Are Determines What Dies Within You.

Where You Are Determines What Grows Within You—Your Weakness or Your Strength.

Establishing A Place of Wisdom

1. Where Should You Study? You need a very *private* place. It is impossible to absorb knowledge unless you are relaxed and generally alone. Even if you must turn a small bedroom into a study, do it.

2. Create The Climate, The Atmosphere of A Scholar.

3. Decide On A Place Which Is Accessible And Where You Can Study Every Day. One of the disadvantages of an evangelist is this very thing. For many years, I chose a Sunday School office in every church I spoke. I set up tables, typewriters, my books, my studies, and at a specific time each morning, sat for my daily four hours in private study and prayer.

The rewards will come later. Do not let anyone deprive you of your *place of Wisdom*. That is what the study is...*a place of Wisdom*. In all your getting, get it.

Your wife may think the books are unattractive. Your friends may make fun of your stacks of material piled high around you. Disregard them. You are

stacking up internal, invisible bricks which are becoming *the Skyscraper of Wisdom within you*.

Establishing Your Wisdom Time

1. When Should You Study? Preferably in the morning. Usually your mind is alert. Besides that, it is the most important priority of your day...to be alone and study with God.

2. Establish A Specific Time. Announce it to your family. Since we subconsciously educate others on how to treat us, educate your family on your *Wisdom hours*.

Whatever time you choose, do it for the next consecutive thirty days. *Their respect* will increase. *Your confidence* will multiply, and the future of your ministry...*limitless*.

3. Set Reasonable Goals. Do not worry about studying twelve hours a day. Do not set unreasonable goals. Just do something each morning to build the Wisdom within you.

4 Reasons Why You Should Study

1. It Is The Only Way To Know And Experience The Fullness of God.

2. It Is The Difference Between A Weak Ministry And A Powerful Ministry; A Fearful Ministry And A Faith-Filled Ministry, An Ineffective Preacher And An Extraordinary Preacher.

3. It Is The Difference Between A Confused Mind And A Peaceful Mind, A Fragmented Life And A Life of Order.

4. You Are Responsible For Feeding The Sheep Who Are Hungry, Bruised And Broken. If you do not feed them, who will?

Tomorrow's accomplishment is being birthed in today's incubator of information. *You will never succeed beyond your pursuit of the Wisdom of God.*

How Do You Study?

You must find your own system that works for you. I can only tell you what I do. The Word of God is my number one source for *knowledge, information* and *Wisdom*.

I take a sheet of paper, a three-hole legal pad, and title the top of my paper with the topic I am studying, or a Bible book I am reading on the daily schedule. I draw a straight line across the paper dividing my paper into two columns. The left side says Topic, the right side says Thought. When I read a Scripture which gives me knowledge about that particular topic, I enter the particular name of the topic in my left-hand column, then I write my impressions from God under the column marked Thought.

I do the same thing when I am reading a book by other authors. I record the topic in the left-hand column and my thoughts on the right.

What does this do? This gives me instant filing capability to file the three-hole sheet of paper in a Master Notebook of Wisdom. It then gives me access to any of those topics for reference. My secretary can transcribe each piece of information on any topic.

It is better than the back of envelopes, pieces of paper, seven different sizes of notebooks! I wish I had

discovered it years ago.

Master One Topic In The Bible

Know more about one subject than anyone else does.

When I was fifteen years old, an extraordinary minister came to my father's church. He was articulate, brilliant and persuasive. He took a special interest in me, and I responded.

"No man has the right to call himself a man of God who reads less than twenty chapters a day in the Scriptures," he declared. "Read the Scriptures daily, continuously. *Become an authority on at least one topic in the Bible.*"

I believed him. So, at the tender age of fifteen, I began to read the Bible consistently, a minimum of twenty chapters a day. Later, I began reading forty chapters a day which helped me read the Bible completely through every thirty days. Some would criticize this method of reading a lot of Scripture thinking you could not retain very much. However, I discovered reading the Scriptures continuously brought an increased awareness of the passion of God, a relationship with His people. Rather than simply reading three or four chapters a day that would "keep the conscience okay," I really wanted to have a general working knowledge of Scripture.

As I matured, I focused on one topic at a time. Now, I have discovered that your knowledge can soar quickly when you develop a passion and focus.

Suppose you wanted to know everything in Scripture about "*Faith.*" That is a marvelous subject.

In fact, without *faith* you cannot even please or pleasure God. God has a desperate desire to be believed.

Here Are 10 Helpful Thoughts On Mastering One Topic In Scripture

1. Read Through The Bible And Circle In Red (or Highlight In Pink) Every Scripture Relating To The Topic of Faith. When you open your Bible, you will immediately see every Scripture connected to your focus, *Faith*. Mark those Scriptures that reveal the benefits and blessings of *using* your Faith. This will include *examples* such as Joshua and Caleb in the Old Testament. Highlight Scriptures that show the consequences of *not* using your *Faith*. Your goal is to become an authority on *Faith*.

2. Create A Yearly Calendar of 365 Favorite Scriptures On Faith. You want to begin a memorization program of one Scripture each day...your passion, *Faith*. It is important to tie together the focus of your life, *Faith*, with your daily living and circumstances. This calendar is a legacy for your family. Discuss your Scripture-of-the-Day on *Faith* at the breakfast table. Place it on your refrigerator door. Pin it on the bulletin board. I promise you, if you memorize 365 Scriptures on *Faith*, you will become the expert in *any* conversation!

3. Collect Books And Tapes From Teachers Who Teach On Faith. You will be amazed how The Holy Spirit supernaturally guides your life into uncommon relationships with mentors to teach you.

4. Keep A List of Questions Regarding

Faith. This enables you to benefit from any moment you are in the presence of someone else who is an authority on *Faith*.

5. Conclude Every Telephone Conversation With A Special Prayer For Your Friend That God Will “Increase Your Faith.”

6. Listen To The Bible Daily On Cassette Tape. It Increases Your Faith. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God,” (Romans 10:17).

7. Pray For Increased Understanding And Revelation Concerning Faith. As you get alone with The Holy Spirit in The Secret Place, He will open your eyes of understanding. “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened,” (Matthew 7:7-8).

8. Set Aside A Specific Time Every Day To Read A Book On Faith. Be militant and decisive about this appointment with Wisdom.

9. Become Known For Your Obsession To Understand Faith. When someone mentions Thomas Edison, everyone thinks about inventions. When someone mentions the Wright Brothers, everyone thinks of airplanes. It should be this way with you. Everyone should know about your passion—*Faith*. Open your church service quoting a verse concerning *Faith*.

10. Maintain Your Wisdom Notebook On Faith. Write down every thought, idea and even poems on Faith. You will be thrilled to see your progress in the coming twelve months. Your life and ministry

should become remembered by this focus.

Whatever topic The Holy Spirit leads you toward, give it your total focus.

It will change your ministry forever.

4 Benefits Emerge When You Become An Expert On One Topic

1. Your Confidence Toward God Will Multiply. His Word throbs with strength, energy and joy. Every word He speaks will breathe a new energy into your ministry unparalleled by anything else you do.

2. Your Confidence Toward Your Own Dreams And Goals Will Increase. Knowledge makes you comfortable. Knowledge increases your confidence about everything you do.

3. Others Will Receive Your Ministry With Increased Confidence. As your loved ones listen to The Word of God pouring from your lips, they will become excited about your ability to help them and increase their knowledge of God.

4. Your Knowledge of Other Subjects Will Instantly Increase. For example, when you study angels, you will discover Lucifer and demon spirits, ex-angels dethroned by God. When you study Faith, you will learn so much about prayer, The Secret Place and the intercession ministry name of Jesus. When you study The Holy Spirit, you will fall in love with Jesus more than ever.

Master One Topic In The Bible.

Keep A Book With You At All Times

Make moments count.

What you read is what you will become. Reading prevents boredom. That is why magazines and books are kept in the waiting rooms of physicians and hospitals. When you bring the book of your choice with you, you can maintain a continuous flow of appropriate information into your heart and mind.

6 Facts Every Minister Should Remember About Reading

1. Reading Will Often Discourage Unproductive Conversation With Others. Have you ever sat beside someone who could not stop talking? Unfortunately, most people who love to talk a lot do not require anything significant to energize them. They will talk about anything just to avoid silence. When you keep a book handy, this usually discourages them.

2. Keep A List of The Books You Want To Read Each Month. This prevents unwise selections in moments of boredom or fatigue. Every minister should read at least one book a week. At the beginning of each year, select fifty-two books that you would like to complete by the end of the year and select a new one each Sunday. Just twenty pages a day will take you through a 140 page book every single week.

3. Bring Books With You On Airplane Trips And Vacations. You are away from the busyness of your daily schedule. The phone cannot ring. The television is off. You can withdraw in your own private mental world. Focus is possible. You can purchase books in airports, but it is better for you to bring your

own choice with you.

4. Keep Reading Material In Your Washroom. Avoid two year old magazines that do not keep you current and energized. Place books there that are priority and important to you. I keep a Bible with my books as well.

5. Keep Two Books In Your Automobile At All Times. I suggest keeping a fiction book and a non-fiction book simultaneously. Moods vary. Sometimes, you want to *relax* and other times you will want to *learn*. Keep *both* convenient for such occasions. During traffic jams, this relieves the stress of “doing nothing” en route to an appointment.

6. Make Books Accessible To Others Riding With You As Well. This reading habit “brings your thoughts into captivity.” This neutralizes the influence of others around you who would use these occasions to break your focus. *Your life stays on course*. Your focus is *protected*. You continue to grow even in the spare moments between appointments.

My life is quite full. There is little time for loneliness, self-pity or “down time.” *Every moment matters to me*. My hours matter to me. I travel a lot. I have for forty years. I have noticed that the only time I want to read a novel is for relaxation on a plane.

When I am home, I am emotionally attached to my projects and feeling the responsibility of over fifty staff members. So, I will take those moments on an airplane to nap (power naps), read the newspaper or read a novel. Ten years ago, I would write letters on planes and review business proposals. That has changed as well.

Your needs continuously change. Familiarize

yourself with your personal rhythms of each day. Cooperate with them and you can become more productive than you realize.

Do not fight against the surges of energy in your life and ministry. Identify and flow with them. Make moments count.

Keep A Book With You At All Times.

80

SUCCESS SECRETS



Successful Men Do Daily What Unsuccessful Men Do Occasionally.

Happiness Is A Now Place.

Yesterday is in the *tomb*.

Tomorrow is in the *womb*.

Your life is *today*.

Today is really the only place you will ever exist. When you get to your future, you will rename it—*Today*. “This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it,” (Psalm 118:24).

What Is Success?

Thousands of people have misunderstood success and prosperity.

Somewhere they have gotten the idea that it is wrong to want to be successful. In fact, some even feel that prosperity is of the devil. Nothing could be further from the truth! Don't be misled. God *does* want you successful! His Word *does* say: “...thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success,” (Joshua 1:8).

When you say the word *success*, everybody thinks of yachts, gorgeous homes, big cars, fancy clothes and huge bank accounts. It is quite possible to have all these possessions and be unsuccessful. Unfortunately,

merely having these possessions does not necessarily make a person successful. Many who possess all of this have honestly admitted openly that they are still unhappy with their lives.

Some people define success in terms of power, position, prestige and popularity. Again, the successful person may enjoy all these things, but even these attributes are not, in themselves, the foundation stones of success.

Still others say that success is achieving the goals you set for yourself. The question is, does the attainment of those particular goals produce genuine satisfaction in the heart, the *inner world*? The *external* picture of success does not necessarily guarantee *internal* happiness.

I remember reading in history about Alexander the Great. He went out with his armies to conquer the nations of the world. After the last victorious battle had ended, it is said Alexander wept because there were no more worlds left for him to conquer! He achieved all his goals but did not find abiding satisfaction and happiness.

Real Success

If success is not measured in terms of possessions, popularity and performance, how then can it be defined? Perhaps the simplest definition of success for the believer is *knowing and attaining God's goals for your life*. A successful life is one that is happy.

Becoming what God wants you to become.

Doing what God wants you to do.

Possessing what God wants you to own.

As you achieve the goals *God* has set for your life, then you become successful. Someone once said, "Success is not merely getting what you want, but wanting what you got after you get it." Some fellow may throw away all he has to win the heart of a certain girl, only to discover later her greatest talent is making him miserable! *He got what he wanted, but didn't want what he got.*

In their quest for achievement, some people become so greedy and grasping they are *never* satisfied with *any* accomplishment. They never enjoy what God has *already* given them. Real success is not a destination, it is a journey. It is movement. It is the joy created by *progress*. Success is not a city where you will arrive *tomorrow*, it is the enjoyment of today, *the now*. Every person is somewhere on God's maturity schedule, from "A" to "Z." Real success is keeping the schedule God has for you and His Assignment for your life.

Stay On God's Schedule For Success

What does all this mean? Simply that success means different things to different people, depending on where they are on God's maturity schedule. If someone offered a baby the keys to a new car, it would mean very little to him. He wants his bottle of milk! Having the keys to his own automobile would not be success to him. Being given his bottle and a soft pillow for his head is the best thing that could happen to him right now. However, if that baby continued to progress along God's maturity schedule, about 16 years later, if he were offered a baby bottle and a soft pillow, he would be very disappointed. It would not be his idea of the

ideal way to spend an evening. That's the time he is interested in the offer of the keys to the car!

That's why I say *true success is achieving the goals God presently has for you*. Some ministers have stopped along God's maturity schedule at about letter "C." Instead of realizing God wants them to prosper and be successful, they sit back with a "baby bottle" and wonder why they find very little satisfaction in life.

On the other hand, it is possible to try to get too far *ahead* of God's schedule. I know some people who are trying to achieve level "S" or "T" when they should be back on about "M." Because of their misdirected attention focus, they are completely dissatisfied with the achievements they are making on their present level.

Remember, *success is different things to different people at different times*. Find out where you are on your journey. Learn to enjoy what you are already receiving instead of being unhappy because you haven't got everything you are wanting.

One man I know thought his "success goal" was a lot of money. You can imagine how he felt when he read in the newspaper about a guy who won a contest and was awarded the prize of \$100,000. "Wow, what a lucky guy," the man said. "Nothing could make me unhappy if I could win \$100,000 like he did!"

Then my friend read the next paragraph of the news story. He learned that the "winner" was a prisoner on death row, scheduled to be electrocuted in a short time. From the prisoner's point of view, the \$100,000 prize didn't spell success. The money wasn't going to do him much good!

Never forget that being successful is achieving the

goals God has for you in *every* area of your life. What are these areas? God has a success plan for you *spiritually, physically, emotionally, financially, socially* and in your *family life*. And He has provided a Golden Key to help you unlock the Doors of Success in every single area.

Success is the achievement of the goals God has for you!!

Obstacles To Success

People are my life. I have invested over 43 years of global evangelism to increase their success and happiness through conferences, seminars, tapes and books.

Failure angers me. I rebel against unhappiness, sickness and hurt. Most of it could be *avoided* through recognizing and obeying the *Laws of God*. Much could be turned into a stepping stone to greater success if we knew how to *react* to situations.

Obstacle 1: An Unteachable Spirit

An unteachable spirit is an *unwillingness to change*. Millions refuse to implement new and vital information as it becomes available.

Imagine a lawyer who refused to read new laws and *update his understanding*. Would you choose a surgeon who was unfamiliar with the latest medical technology?

The most successful businesses are those which adapt to new policies, produce new products and keep *informed*. They consult with experts. They analyze their own procedures. *Growing means change*. It is a

part of prospering.

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge,” (Hosea 4:6).

“A wise man will hear, and will increase learning,” (Proverbs 1:5).

“If thou criest after knowledge...If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God,” (Proverbs 2:3-5).

A friend of mine has said, there are *two sources of knowledge*:

Wisdom - learning from the mistakes of *others*, and...Experience - learning from *your own* mistakes.

Knowledge is exploding all around us. Uncommon men of God are sharing with us their expertise on faith, financial blessings and the power of God. They are teaching us many principles of success for marriage, purity and every part of our lives.

Books are crammed with information from years of research. *Cassette Tapes or CD's* are made available for the price of a simple meal. *Magazines* are mailed free of charge.

God placed *Seeds of Greatness* within us at birth. *You* and I are responsible for *growing* those Seeds.

You are what you have decided to be.

If you are unhappy with yourself, *dare to reach* for *new* information, *new* teaching and *new* truths that will elevate you and build your relationship with God. If there is a sin in your life, repent and rededicate your life to Jesus Christ. Allow His precious blood to cleanse you. He will restore that fellowship you need with Him.

Invest in literature and teaching tapes. If your car is worth \$30 for gas, surely your mind is worth growing!

Don't bankrupt your mind! Don't starve your heart! Feed it what it desperately needs! *Dare to embrace change.* Dare to listen to new ideas and concepts. God may want you on a new job, in a new city. Your best days are just ahead! *You can make it!*

Recognize reasons for any failure. It is crucial that you locate the "bottleneck" in your lives and activate the success and happiness that belongs to you.

Obstacle 2: Unpaid Vows

Unpaid vows are the source of failure for many people. God *holds you responsible for your promises.*

"When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for He hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay," (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5).

Sometimes during a crisis you promise God that you will be faithful to attend church, or pay the tithe of your income, or to clear an offense with someone. Then afterwards, when we regain our health, we forget our vow. *This is deadly.*

It is important that you honor God and each other through honesty and the integrity of your words. You can give offerings, attend church and do many beautiful works, but if you allow a vow to go unpaid, it will destroy the *operation of faith* and the miracle God wants to perform.

Do you owe someone money? Make arrangements to pay, regardless how small those payments may have to be. "Bounced" checks are hardly a testimony to the provision of our Lord. What have you promised your

children? Your mate? Your company? Are you fulfilling your vows? Have you really done your best to make things right with your creditors?

Dare to step out and take the responsibility for the vows you have made. God will honor you. You will sleep better. *Miracles* become daily events in the life of the obedient.

Obstacle 3: Unforgiven Offenses

Forgiveness is not a suggestion.

It is a requirement. “And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in Heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in Heaven forgive your trespasses,” (Mark 11:25-26).

It is *releasing to God the right to judge and penalize another for personal wrong*. Sometimes we feel we have a right to “pay back” a slight or injustice. This is *denying God the right to give mercy or penalty*. It is “playing God.” God abhors the human urge to usurp His authority. Quit role playing! Let God judge and schedule punishment.

Visualize your offender as a hurt, damaged, wounded friend lashing out against you as a form of protection. He may be afraid of you and simply want to keep you from “getting the best of him.”

Pray for those who have wronged you. Find a way to communicate a personal care and interest. Is it hard to do? Oh, very much so. But the personal *peace* it sets in motion is beyond description.

You have received *mercy*...sow it into others.

You have received *love*...sow it into others.
You have received *kindness*...sow it into others.

Obstacle 4: Unwise Associations

Unwise friendships and associations have destroyed the potential and the abilities of multiplied thousands of could-be winners.

Solomon said it: "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed," (Proverbs 13:20).

Paul phrased it: "...evil communications corrupt good manners," (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Disconnect from unqualified persons who abuse and misuse your life. Jesus allowed only two kinds of people to absorb His time: first, those who *ministered* to Him and second, those who *received* His ministry to them. He knew that the Pharisees did not deserve His time because they abused it. *When someone does not value your time, neither will they value your Wisdom.*

Re-evaluate your life and friendships.

Do you allow your dreams to be eroded and your goals limited because of relationships with those who laugh at your pursuit of accomplishment? *Disconnect.*

I had an interesting revelation on this Principle of Power. A letter had been placed on my desk by my secretary as one worthy of "special attention." It was from a critical lady who had resented something I said in a meeting in which I was speaking. I spent one full hour trying to write a letter of explanation (really, an appeasement) to this lady.

Suddenly, it dawned on me: I was spending more time on her than I had ever spent writing a letter to my

precious mother who had supported and loved me for my entire life! I was actually giving *my time*...the most important commodity of my life...to someone who was completely unappreciative of such investment. I have stopped this practice and have focused instead on helping the thankful, not the critical.

4 Qualities of Wise Associations

- ▶ Those who speak words that build your faith and confidence.
- ▶ Those who see the worthiness of your God-given dreams and goals.
- ▶ Those who become enthusiastic when you enter their presence.
- ▶ Those who remind you of your special gifts and abilities.

You must choose the level of mentality you want to live on. If you give time to those unworthy of it, stop complaining. You are the one who gave them the time. They abused it because you allowed them the opportunity. Become more selective. Remember: the same time you waste on losers is that which could have been invested with winners.

Obstacle 5: Unbridled Tongue

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof,” (Proverbs 18:21).

“A fool’s lips enter into contention...A fool’s mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul. The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go

down into the innermost parts of the belly,” (Proverbs 18:6-8).

Words are *forces*. Wrong or right, to build or destroy, words leave a trail of destruction or accomplishment. Words can build confidence or tear faith down.

Words are *tools* God gave you to build up your own spirit and mind. Your *body* responds to *sounds*. Your *spirit* responds to *words*.

Words provide you *mind-pictures* that your entire life reacts to. You *hear* a story. You smile or cry. You *feel*.

What you *hear*, you *think about*.

What you think about, you *feel*.

What you feel, you *do*.

What you do, becomes a *habit*.

Your *habits* determine your life and eventual destiny.

So, stop talking about shortages and setbacks. Stop talking about defeat and disease. Stop talking about failure and problems. Concentrate on the opportunities at hand. Talk about the blessings you now possess. Take time to taste your triumphs today. *Now* is here.

Reach up. Take in. *Absorb* the beauty of *now*. *Talk* about your *expectations*, not your experiences. *Talk* about your *future*, not your failures.

Help others do the same. *Influence the conversations around you*. Sometimes it is even good to “dominate your turf” with a little “aggressive happiness.”

Happy people tend to be a little intimidating to the unhappy. The *Winner* seems *pushy* to a Loser. Dare to

do it anyway. Their appreciation will be inevitable. When someone around you becomes ill, *pray* for them. When someone loses their job, *assist them* in stimulating their mind to find a creative alternative.

Control your mouth. “For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned,” (Matthew 12:37).

If you talk about all your losses, setbacks and failures, you are providing others with a photograph album and file of you *as a loser*. They will never see you as a Winner. Remember, every time you talk, you are *programming yourself* and *others*. Start conditioning your mind to accept your successes and triumphs.

A common mistake losers make is sharing their heartbreak stories *during* the period of loss. Winners never do that: they wait until that experience is *past* and share it as a *triumph*.

Instead of discussing people who are takers, *start concentrating on God. Your Giver.* You should memorize Matthew 7:7-11: “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in Heaven give good things to them that ask Him?”

Your *success future* is set in motion by your *words*. I like the way a friend of mine says it: “*There is a miracle in your mouth.*” So, begin talking in the direction you want your life to move.

Obstacle 6: Undeveloped Gifts And Abilities

Winners are people who have discovered their special talents, abilities and *special* God-given gifts. And, seeing their Seeds of Greatness, they have taken the time and energy to *grow* those Seeds into great benefits and advantages.

One secretary watches television all weekend, while another pursues an in-depth seminar study or develops her special shorthand skills. When it comes time for a raise, or promotion, who has placed herself in the *position of advantage*? Certainly, the one secretary may complain that the other “gets all the breaks” or “the boss likes her” but in reality, one cultivated the gift God deposited in her Life-Account.

Our talents and abilities differ. “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us,” (Romans 12:6).

Though a man is compensated by other men according to their need for his special gift, God values every man’s ability and gift equally. We must do the same.

If you enjoy working, do not play down your role as a secretary. See the greatness of your gift. Take time to find it. Then, invest the time and effort necessary to improve it. The special talents God has given to you will generate everything you will need to be financially successful, but you must grow the Seeds within you.

Obstacle 7: Uncommitted Heart

A committed heart is a decided heart. It is the result of a made-up mind. And it may explain the

mystery of “charisma,” or *presence*, that powerful people often generate when they walk into a room. “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways,” (James 1:8).

Commitment generates an aura of authority. It permeates an atmosphere. The effect is electrifying. *Commitment* attracts people, favorable opportunities, and gives power and creativity to your life.

Get involved in something great and give your life to it. Find something bigger than you are. Connect with something you can really believe in.

Your Golden Train And 24 Boxcars

Your life is like a Train on the Track of Success. When you are making progress up the Track of Success toward those Cities of Achievement (goals) which you want to reach, you will experience joy, pleasure and a sense of fulfillment. When your train does not make progress up the track, you will sense futility, inferiority and depression. As long as you feel movement toward worthwhile goals, you will feel significance. Satan’s strategy is to derail your train, sidetrack you, to slow down or stop your pursuit of your God-given goals.

Each morning, God gives you 24 Golden Boxcars to create your train. Everybody gets the same amount of boxcars. The poor do not receive 23; the wealthy do not receive 25 boxcars. Everyone receives 24 Golden Boxcars for their Train of Success...24 hours each day.

What you load up in those boxcars determines the speed and how far your train will move up the Track of Success.

If you do not plan your “cargo” for the next 24 Golden Hours, somebody else will! They will load up

your 24 Golden “Boxcars” with their tasks, their activities and their trash. Your train will derail. It will not make any progress toward your dreams.

If you overload your 24 Golden Hours (or boxcars) with unreasonable expectations, impossible tasks, your train will still derail. Your *future* depends on your decision to *focus* on the most important tasks necessary...those things that create progress...*Progress during the immediate 24 hours you are living right now. Today.*

What are the activities in your personal life that create a sense of progress and fulfillment? Do them...*Daily*. Repeat them regularly. If you are not completing your most important tasks and priorities each day, then you are creating *daily* failures...*Each day...Every day.*

Let me explain. I have found that the four most important tasks that create a “Successful Day” in my own life are: 1) Seven hours of sleep; 2) Five miles of walking or jogging; 3) Forty chapters of reading in The Word of God; 4) Four hours of private prayer time.

When I *complete* these four priorities daily, I feel incredibly *satisfied, energized and full of confidence* toward the future. When I fail to finish these priorities during a day, I feel loss, uncertainty and incompleteness.

4 Daily Priorities For A Successful Day

1. Rest. Fatigue has caused more preachers to backslide than the devil, in my opinion! I have often said the devil may not be as “omnipresent” as much as we think he is...he simply establishes failure habits in

our daily lifestyles. These habits unravel and destroy us from the inside. It is astounding how you see things differently when you are rested, than you do when you are fatigued. Minister, whatever you do, please take care of your body. Rest it. Feed it properly, for through it will flow *energy, enthusiasm* and the *healing river* of God. A day without proper rest, is a step backward, away from your dreams.

2. Physical Exercise. Some preachers have a tendency to eat too much of the wrong food, at the wrong time. People love to “feed the ministry.” We love to sit, fellowship and discuss problems with others. Consequently, we destroy ourselves, through improper eating habits. It is sad. It is humiliating. It is a sin.

God dealt with me several years ago.

If you have a problem with weight, I urge you to seek professional help. Get a handle on it now. Do not delay. Get a daily exercise program which fits you. Or walk at least two miles or more every day. (By the way, you might enjoy a book that I have enjoyed called, *Fit For Life* by Harvey Diamond. It has helped me tremendously.) Your health deserves at least one of your Golden Boxcars set aside each day for exercise, but nobody else can do it for you. Get your mind on the rewards and go for it with all of your heart.

Remember these steps towards better health:

- ▶ Nobody else can exercise for you.
- ▶ Few can actually encourage to exercise.
- ▶ Everyone seems to be in a conspiracy to weaken your resolve for maximum health.
- ▶ You must become militant about your health.
- ▶ Focus on your results of the walking, instead of the walking.

- ▶ Keep a microcassette recorder with you for special dictation when you walk.
- ▶ Use headphones and listen to the teaching tapes you have been wanting to listen to for a long time.
- ▶ Invite a friend or protégé who has been requesting quality time with you to walk with you.
- ▶ Keep Scripture cards for memorizing a new verse daily.
- ▶ Document the benefits of your walking.
- ▶ Drink water consistently.
- ▶ Keep a plate of fruit or carrots and celery sticks by your bed. Make that your midnight snack instead of cookies.
- ▶ Ask The Holy Spirit to enable you to take steps in the right direction every day.
- ▶ Visualize your body as the temple of The Holy Spirit.

3. Time In The Word of God. Set up a schedule for each day of what you will read that day. I am enclosing in the section on “Bible Reading Schedules,” a practical schedule for reading the complete Bible through every thirty days, or the New Testament through every thirty days, or the complete Bible each year. Select a method that makes you fulfilled. I have read the Bible through dozens of times. I would have never done it, had I not set my goal to accomplish that. I urge you, establish your daily reading goals and complete them.

4. Time In Prayer. Schedule your prayer time. One of the ingredients of The Perfect Day includes

hearing the voice of God each morning. You must hear His voice *before you hear the bad news about the economy*. He has promised supernatural provision.

You must hear His voice *before the report of the doctor comes*. God is your great physician.

You must hear His voice *before others have had an opportunity to influence you*. He alone knows the truth.

After you hear the voice of God, *the critical words of others have little effect upon you*. His presence reassures you. His words correct your course. His peace settles the storms within you.

After you hear His words, the *flattering words of others cannot puff you up*. Both feet are on the ground. Your instructions are clear.

After you hear the voice of God, *your attitude changes instantly*. You will not face the future with anger, torment or fear. He has spoken. His words have settled every issue. Time will prove Him correct.

You will create order *only* when you *make* His presence your priority.

7 Secrets For Personal Success

1. Define The Specific Goal You Want To Achieve. “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways,” (James 1:8).

2. Chart A Detailed Course With Established Deadlines. “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil,” (Ephesians 5:16).

3. Constantly Visualize Yourself Attaining That Goal. “(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before Him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were,” (Romans 4:17).

4. Be Informed. “Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction,” (Proverbs 10:14).

5. Create A Climate of Confidence In Every Circumstance. “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us,” (Romans 8:37).

6. Help Others Become Successful. “And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before,” (Job 42:10).

7. Value The God-Connection. “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread,” (Psalm 37:25).

7 Golden Secrets For A Successful Ministry

1. Discern Your Particular Calling.

2. Consult The Experienced.

3. Develop Daily Success Habits Which Will Take You To Your Destination.

4. Study Fresh Material...Keep Fresh In Your Studies.

5. Spend Designated Time In Prayer Each Day.

6. Keep Physically Fit Through A Routine of Exercises.

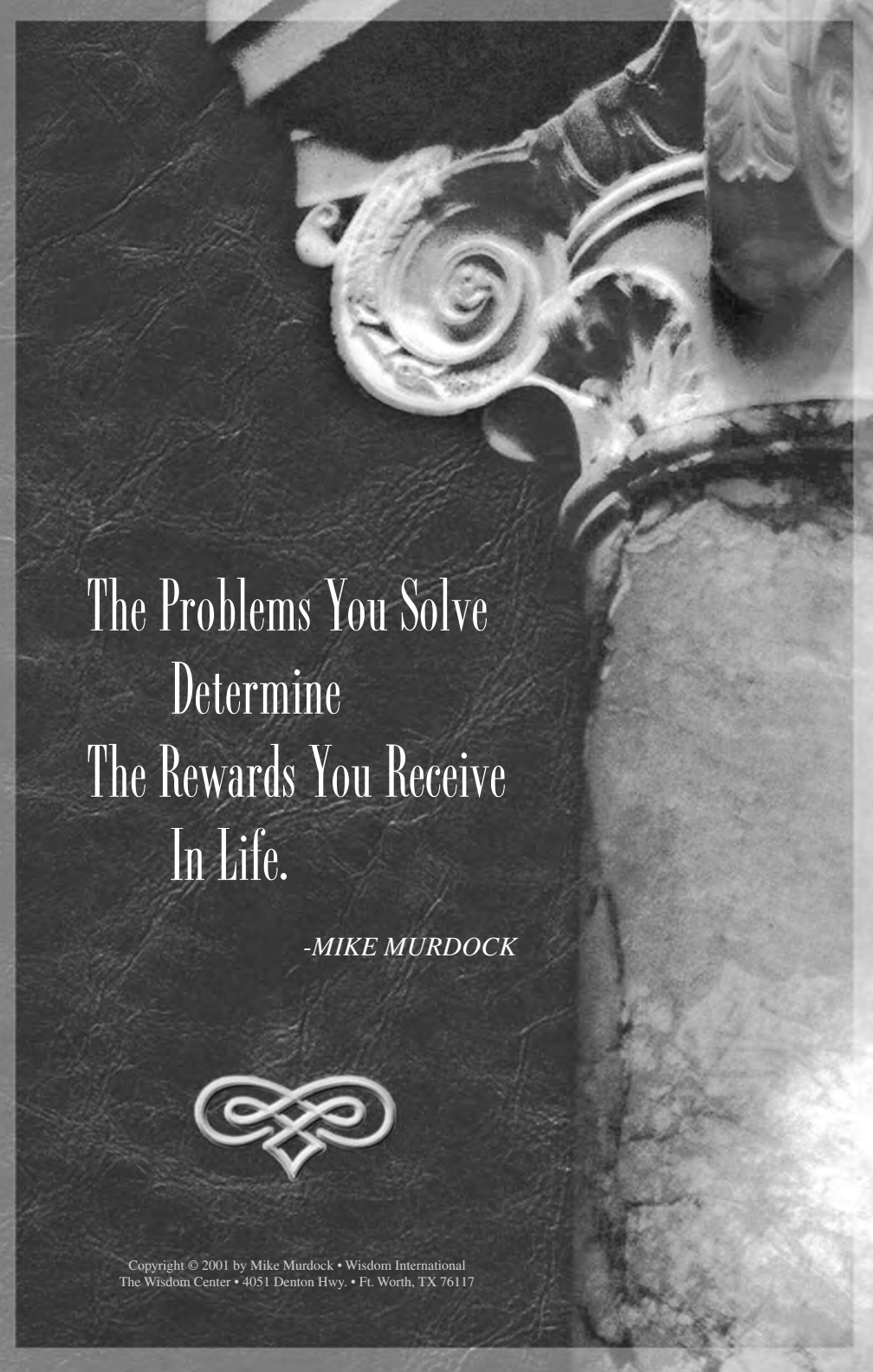
7. Be Teachable And Willing To Change.

RECOMMENDED INVESTMENTS:

Seeds of Wisdom On Habits (Book/B-18/32 pg/\$3)

Seven Obstacles To Abundant Success (Book/B-64/32 pg/\$5)

Wisdom-God's Golden Key To Success (Book/B-71/78 pg/\$7)



The Problems You Solve
Determine
The Rewards You Receive
In Life.

-MIKE MURDOCK



81

TECHNOLOGY



Your Life Successes Will Be Proportionate To Your Information Received.

Information Not Retrievable Is Unnecessary or Invaluable In Your Life. How do you gather your information? How do you document it? How do you retrieve it. It does not help you to have information you cannot retrieve.

7 Facts About Technology

1. Technology Is The Secret To Extraordinary Productivity. Do not be afraid of new technology. Through technology you can be kept continuously aware of everything happening in the world and in your ministry.

2. Advantages of Machines. They are not jealous. They do not beg for retirement.

3. Decide What You Want Before You Decide How To Get It. Some of us neutralize all of our goals. We discount all of our dreams because we look at what we have got before we decide what we want to do. If I decide what I want, the method for obtaining it will emerge.

4. Effectiveness In The Workplace. Information that is not retrievable is not useable.

5. Invest In Technology For Your Home, For Your Life. The more important your goals, the more important your time. You must take some time to invest in technology and develop a consciousness of it.

6. Get Involved In Technology And Develop Some Time To Learn It Meticulously. The more important your time, the more important technology is to communicate with people and talk with people...and the more people you will reach. Remember the last mandate of Christ: Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

7. Educate Those In Your Circle About Your Expectations, Your Desires, Your Needs And Let Them Educate You. Know what those around you love. Let them know what you love. Mentor your spouse, family and those close to you through teaching DVDs or tapes.

Now let me give you some examples of helpful electronic equipment. Now you do not have to do this, but my obsession is to help people to achieve their goals and dreams. My obsession is to help people, especially people in the ministry, to achieve their goals.

Cell Phone And PDA

In our mobile society it is almost a requirement to have a cell phone. There are a lot of cell phone choices on the market, but my personal preference is Verizon because I have found I have the best reception with it when I travel.

The most versatile product I have found is the Verizon PDA (Personal Digital Assistant). With the

punch of a button you have a phone, a camera, an address book, and it is even a note pad that you can write with your finger on. It can also be hot-synced very quickly so that everything you wrote that day can just plug right into your laptop. So, all the information in one goes into the other; therefore, you are only entering the information one time.

Computers

One of your first purchases should be a computer. It increases your productivity immensely. You can easily store all of your sermons, reference materials and personal material, and then have any of it readily available.

There are two basic kinds of computers. PC, your personal computer, then there is an Apple which is a Macintosh. I use both. I use the PC mainly with a tablet. This tablet simply means you can write notes for yourself in your own handwriting on the computer. You can take notes at any time...when someone is talking to you whether on a phone call or in a conference, write a prayer or inspiration for a sermon. Then it is easily retrievable when you need it. You do not have 5,000 little pieces of paper any more.

Scanner

I am time-conscious. Every minute matters to me so a scanner can save a lot of time. You can scan in magazine articles, reference materials, prayers, bank statements...anything you want in your computer for reference.

If you travel a lot, there is even a travel scanner available that you can carry with you. When you arrive

at your home or destination you can just plug it into your laptop and have all of that information available immediately.

Storage Device

A portable storage device allows you to switch over from one computer to another transferring all the information in a matter of seconds. It also allows you to switch to another computer to print from.

Website

You need a website in the next 30 days. You want people to have access to information about you and your ministry without interrupting your time. A friend once told me, “On the internet, cyberspace, you can buy real estate for \$6.95. He said that is real estate you own. You have an address in outer space and anybody in the world can get your information for only a quarter a day.”

That website needs attention. It is a portrait of you. It is a picture of your excellence. It is what you are about. Thousands of people go to our website to get information. Some buy things. Some watch my video of the day. Whatever and whenever they want to do, it is there for them.

Projector

One of the greatest teaching devices is a projector. You can simply attach it to your computer and instantly display on a screen or white wall anything you are teaching. It makes mentorship of your family or church people so easy. They can see what you are trying to explain.

Why am I sharing all of this with you? I really believe that information is very basic to us. It is strong and important in the ministry. Learn how to take notes. Learn how to retrieve notes.

Staying up-to-date with the latest technology will improve your productivity and your ministry's outreach.



Something In Your Hand
Can Create
Anything You Want
In Your Future.

-MIKE MURDOCK



82

TELEVISION



Consider The Potential Influence Through A Television Ministry.

“And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature,” (Mark 16:15).

“How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things,” (Romans 10:14-15).

Unleashing The Potential of Your Television Ministry

Few ministers really grasp the incredible potential influence of a television ministry. If they did, they would establish themselves on a local television program, or even nationwide. True, not every minister may feel qualified or necessarily called for a television ministry, but the message of the Gospel deserves to be heard.

Television is the best means of reaching the most people with the Gospel. Think about it for a moment. The pastor with 1,000 members must preach in his

pulpit 100 times every year for 20 consecutive years to reach 1,000,000 people. A television evangelist can reach one million in one single hour!!! Imagine it. That is why satan hates television ministries, and his number one target is to *paralyze* the finances of radio and television ministries.

I believe this is the reason why men who pursue the deliverance of millions become the target of criticism, slander, temptation and every conceivable form of entrapment that satan is capable of creating. That is why I support television ministries. I believe in them. That is why I believe that you, as a pastor and evangelist, should sincerely consider giving yourself to a powerful ministry through television and radio.

You do more damage to hell, more good in the Kingdom, mend more broken lives, restore more tormented minds, bring more people to Jesus in one year of television, than you will in your entire lifetime of pulpit ministry in the local church. Think about it. An evangelist probably preaches the Gospel to more people in one day through television than Paul the apostle did in his entire lifetime.

Does God Want Your Ministry On Television?

Let's face it. Obviously, everyone cannot be on the same TV station at the same time.

However, we must ask, "What is the potential power of your ministry without television or radio?" Very limited. If your message last week in your church resulted in ten people making commitments out of the 200 members present, your response ratio is five

percent. Suppose you could have been preaching to one million on television? The results are obvious.

Have you really prayed about television or radio ministry? Is your desire strong enough to pursue it? Has God brought anyone into your life to inspire this desire? Are you doing any research regarding television airtime, production costs? (And do not forget your responsibilities to respond to the letters of hurting people who will be writing to you. See "Mail Ministry" Section.)

Some feel that there is too much television ministry on the air already. I feel that there is too little.

How can our world receive too much Gospel? People need healing, information about God, and encouragement. No, our world is hurting, from lack of effective television ministries. As long as there is one lost soul, we have a responsibility to *reach, teach, preach...* to minister through television, radio, crusade or whatever. I suggest that you begin the journey of your television ministry with serious inquiry and research.

It may begin with a "one-time special" on your local TV, or co-hosting a show with an already existing TV ministry. It may be having your people on the prayer telephones for another ministry. You may want to take your board members to a major television ministry to absorb the feeling, caring and understanding of what media ministry is really all about.

I suggest that you start sowing your financial support into known and productive television ministries. I support several every month. I feel that my Seed is especially productive when I sow into media ministries.

7 Guidelines For Beginning Your Television Ministry

There are TV production companies everywhere. Check your telephone book, or other ministries for references.

You will need the following:

1. A Studio Setting or An Outdoor Location Where You Can Do Your Teaching.

2. Two To Four Cameras For Quality And Flexibility In Production.

3. An Experienced Producer Who Understands Lighting Techniques, Ministry, Etc. You can hire them by the day, hour or simply by the “program.” The producer is usually responsible for hiring the crew, studio, etc.

4. You Will Need To Name Your Program And Select A Theme You Want To Project To Your Audience.

5. Feel Free To Experiment With The Setting That You Feel Most Comfortable With. You may want a small crowd around you, or to speak alone, a singing emphasis, a teaching emphasis or an actual church service.

6. You Will Need A Mail Correspondence Program To Be Able To Minister To The People Who Write. It is unfair for you to *give birth* to relationships you do not intend to maintain.

7. Keep Your Church Name And Address Visible On The Screen. *Regularly, throughout* the program. This gives the people a chance to *reach* for help, as well as generate financial support to continue your ministry through television.

10 Production Tips For Television

1. Check Out The Credentials And Integrity of Any Producer That You Intend To Hire. Thoroughly!

2. Secure A Detailed Written List of Anticipated Expenses. Also, a guarantee of what your producer will do and complete for you. Do not leave anything out of your contract with him.

3. Keep Your Setting Colorful And Interesting. Some experts say the more color you have in your setting, or background, the more likely you are to increase your viewing audience and response. Orange and reds project warmth. Blue projects peace, or coldness depending on the tone!

4. Always Do Practice Runs On Sound Tracks And Music Before Your Show Begins.

5. Make Certain Your “Floor Director” Keeps You Informed At All Times Regarding The Camera You Are To Be Looking Into. Do not hesitate to ask them to bring your face up close when you want to do strong personal ministry to the viewer. The smaller your face is on the screen, the less the viewer feels your emotion and integrity.

6. Dress Your Best To Present The Gospel At The Highest Quality Possible.

7. Concentrate On One Person On “The Other End of The Camera.” Do not talk to the “television multitude,” but mentally visualize one person seated before you, as you open up your heart to them.

8. Avoid Unnecessarily Controversial Subjects Which Will Alienate Your Audience,

Unless God Has Specifically Directed You To Do So. Many TV stations are going through lawsuits because of their comments on homosexuality, or political parties, etc. Much of our crisis in Christian circles has been created by ignorance on our part in regard to addressing the issues of our days.

9. Do Not Quote Statistics or Public Figures Unless You Can Back It Up.

10. Do Not Panic When The Unexpected Occurs. Should something go wrong, a light bulb bursts or a camera breaks, laugh it off. It will not be the end of your ministry!

10 Guidelines For A TV Guest

I consider it an honor and privilege to be asked by men of God, to be on their show. I realize they could choose many others. Some ministers fail to appreciate these opportunities, and rather take them for granted. This kind of “you-owe-it-to-me” attitude has destroyed many ministers. If you are invited to be on a show, there are several suggestions I would like to make.

1. Do Not Act As If They Owe It To You. They do not. They receive thousands of letters weekly from people wanting to be their guests. Many singing groups, pastors, evangelists, missionaries, authors, magazine publishers, businessmen...clamor for their attention in an effort to promote themselves or some product. It is a privilege for you to have the vehicle which they have nurtured, built, toiled, labored, and paid an incredible price for, to carry the message God has given to you.

2. Be Sensitive To The Theme of Their

Particular Ministry. Allow God to make a contribution to it through you. For instance; God has called Richard Roberts to a remarkable healing ministry. So you would not want to be his guest and carry the conversation to the pyramids of Egypt, baseball games or other unrelated topics. You would best coordinate the theme of your own ministry with what God has given to him.

3. Do Not Overdo Your Compliments On The Air. It appears patronizing. It usually embarrasses the host. They need your respect, but not your “hero worship.”

4. Intently Watch The Face of Your Host. This enables you to know when he wants your comment, and when he wants to “take the lead” himself. He usually has a purpose and a direction he wants to go. Watch for it. Cooperate with it. When God gives you something important to say, wait for the proper timing. Then speak it boldly, clearly and with enthusiasm. Then “wait” for the host to direct it from there. By the way, do not be surprised if your host suddenly begins to look around the studio while you are talking directly to him. It is not due to disinterest, but he is usually double-checking to see that all equipment and staff are in place. Keep your eyes on him, the camera and “work” with both of them.

5. Do Not Forget To Look And Talk To Your Viewer As You Are Talking With Your Host. I usually consider it a “three-way” conversation; me, the host and the viewer. Do not raise your voice as if you are preaching from the pulpit. Simply speak conversationally, but with strength, force and authority.

6. Keep Relaxed, And Your Viewer Will Feel

Relaxed As Well.

7. Speak Only of Those Things of Which You Are Knowledgeable.

8. Do Not Get On A Soapbox For Your Personal Projects, Like A Book That You Just Wrote or A New Album. Permit your host to determine the amount of coverage or exposure your ministry receives. If you have a special book or project which you want to promote, this should be discussed well in advance so there is no misunderstanding.

9. Read Carefully, And Ask Questions Before Signing Any Release Agreement. They are normally given to you before a television show. They are usually okay. Just make sure you understand it.

10. Arrive Early Enough To Become Comfortable With The Set, And Practice For Any Special Music You Will Present.

Further References For Television

“And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise out of obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day: And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not,” (Isaiah 58:10-11).

“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever,” (Daniel 12:3).

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and

put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven,” (Matthew 5:14-16).

RECOMMENDED INVESTMENTS:

Solomon's 17 Secrets For Achievement (Video/VI-02/VHS/\$25)

7 Ways To Stay Motivated (Video/VI-04/VHS/\$25)

5 Keys For Achieving Goals (Video/VI-05/VHS/\$25)

Getting Things Done (Video/VI-10/VHS/\$25)

The Holy Spirit (Video/VI-14/VHS/\$25)

7 Keys To 1000 Times More (Video/VI-16/VHS/\$30)



You Never Outgrow
Warfare; You
Must Simply Learn
To Fight.

-MIKE MURDOCK



83

TEMPTATIONS



You Never Outgrow Warfare; You Must Simply Learn To Fight.

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it,” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

“For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again,” (Proverbs 24:16).

“Though I walk in the midst of trouble, Thou wilt revive me: Thou shalt stretch forth Thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and Thy right hand shall save me. The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me,” (Psalm 138:7-8).

“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ,” (1 Peter 1:6-7).

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of

God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death,” (James 1:12-15).

“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations,” (2 Peter 2:9).

Temptations

As a minister of the Gospel, you will be the target of many satanic attacks. I must open my heart up to you and tell you what I have experienced, what I have seen and heard through the tears of several preacher friends of mine whose lives have been destroyed through spiritual neglect, wrong thinking and wrong associations. Temptations begin in the mind...*Seeds*...a little thought here, a little thought there.

What You Mediate On The Most Will Decide The Direction of Your Life.

The reason that satan uses little thoughts as “Seeds” in our soil is to establish a momentum of negative emotions. When you finish preaching a service, someone may come and complain about a statement. Still another meets you at the door, and asks you why you forgot to visit their aunt in the hospital that week. En route home, your wife looks at you in the car, “Why do you not study new material? You were not as fresh tonight as you used to be.” Within hours you have become fragmented, depressed, discouraged and want to leave the ministry! What did satan do? Seed by Seed, thought by thought, feeling by

feeling, he planted *drops* of water that became a *wave*, overwhelming you.

You must counteract temptation at its Beginning Point. There is no other way to defeat it, whether it is the temptation to leave the ministry, or sexual desires toward a woman, or to experiment with drugs or alcohol, or even to cover up a mistake with a lie. It is almost impossible to neutralize the power of temptation at its highest point or wave against you. That is why strong men fall. That is why men do stupid things. They fail to paralyze the temptation at its earliest beginning.

Let's be honest about it. Each of us have succumbed to temptations. True, some of them do not leave the devastating effect that others may leave. However, temptation is entrapment, a scheme. There is a *method* to it, a *purpose* behind it, a *person* behind it. It is satan.

The Temptation To Quit The Ministry

Satan hates preachers. He has always hated everything God loves. You are called of God, chosen of God, anointed by The Holy Spirit, to be a Deliverer of people who are in the chains and bondages of their sins, mistakes, fears and unhappiness. You, as a preacher of the Gospel, are God's major channel through which His love and healing flows. Satan *fears* you. He is *threatened* by you. Your daily successes *humiliate* him. It is only to be expected that he magnifies your human weaknesses.

What are the primary needs and desires of every human? Approval, acceptance, love.

What is the ministry constantly experiencing?

Rejection, unbelief, fault-finding.

Why? God has chosen you to represent *His* nature, *His* love, *His* compassion to others. Consequently, the very nature of man is uncomfortable with you. That is why people become embarrassed in your presence, especially if they are telling off-color jokes.

Again, you must understand that you are *important* to God, a *threat* to satan, and the *only hope* to men around you, because you represent God to them.

Satan's goal in this generation is not the promotion of alcoholism or drug addiction, nor even divorce. His biggest plan is to *destroy* the ministry, to *sidetrack* you, *derail* your train, *discourage* you with people, and make you *want to quit* the ministry.

Is this unusual? Absolutely not. I have never, in forty years of traveling and talking to hundreds of preachers, met one who did not experience great fear and doubts about himself, wanted to leave his ministry at some point of discouragement. Moses was no exception. Micah was no exception. Jeremiah was no exception.

God continuously has to revitalize and re-energize His men who He has called. God anticipated your moments of depression, fear and unbelief. That is why He has arranged for your *recovery* and *restoration*.

Always Remember, The Broken Become Masters At Mending.

84

TIME-MANAGEMENT



Your Respect For Time Is A Prediction of Your Financial Future.

6 Keys About Time-Management

1. Time Is One of The Most Precious And Valuable Gifts God Has Given To You.

Time Matters. The real gift you have been given in life is the gift of Time. You received Time as the currency of this earth. When you saw a friendship you desired, you sowed Time into it and produced a relationship.

You had no money. You met an employer with money who wanted your Time instead. You traded your Time for his money. That became your profession and source of income.

You wanted a healthy body. So you used Time as currency and sowed into exercise, producing a healthier body.

Japan has the Yen. England has the Pound. France has the Franc. Germany has the Mark. Italy has the Lire. Mexico has the Peso. The United States has the Dollar.

The Currency of Life Is Time.

Listen to this meticulous documentation in

1 Kings 6:1, “And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the month of Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the Lord.”

Solomon understood the principle of using Time as currency.

Solomon knew *what* he intended to achieve.

Solomon knew *when* he intended to achieve it.

Time is a mysterious thing. Yet, it is the most sacred gift you have ever received from your Creator. Whatever you have today, you traded Time for it. Whatever you do not have or own, you have been unwilling to trade your Time for.

Everything Is A Trade-Off. *Everything.*

“I could make double pay,” said a friend to me recently. “But it would require me to be away from my family two weeks each month. I have decided to stay in my present position, keep my present salary, so that I can be home each evening with my children when they come home from school.” My friend consciously traded an increased salary for something he desired more than money—Time with his family.

You must decide how important Time is to you.

A few days ago, someone said to me, “I want to come to your house and spend a couple of days just knocking around talking. When will you be home?”

I laughed. What a joke! “I do not ‘knock around,’” I answered. There is not a day in my life I do not schedule something that matters. I keep my schedule and I am always *moving* toward my future.

“Meet me for a cup of coffee,” was a request from a

flippant young man. I pondered his request, but it did not take long to come to a decision.

My staff, television programs and various responsibilities now require over \$9,000 an hour, eight hours a day during the whole workweek. Lingering over that cup of coffee for one hour (at that time) would have actually cost me \$1,000...*of my Time*. Was it worth it? I analyzed the results of that anticipated conversation at the restaurant. I determined that it would fall way short of \$1,000 in value.

I did not think of anything uncaring, but I could not think of anything worthwhile we would discuss. This person was neither *pursuing* my Wisdom, nor interested in *imparting* Wisdom to me! While others may qualify for leisure time, it is important to know the difference.

2. All Champions And Uncommon Leaders Are Conscious of Time.

Study The Success Habits of Uncommon Achievers.

You will notice one obvious and outstanding quality...they are very conscious of Time. They wear watches. They continually consult them. When you have an appointment with them, they establish the perimeters of the appointment. Boundaries are set.

Why is this? Their Time is the most precious commodity in their life. It is the currency of Time that helps them *strengthen* their families, *birth* ideas and *achieve* their dreams and goals.

The Major Difference That I Observed Between The Prosperous And The Poor Is *The Valuing of Time*. When you drive to the ghetto, you will see healthy men and women casually sitting on the steps talking for hours. Garbage is strewn everywhere. Disorder is

rampant. However, they have chosen to invest their time in trivia, while the prosperous are *working*.

3. One Minute Can Make A Difference.

Moments really do matter.

Time is so precious. It is impossible to save, store or gather Time. You must simply learn the best ways to invest it. The apostle Paul treasured time. “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil,” (Ephesians 5:15-16).

4. Time Is A Wonderful And Glorious Tool God Has Given You To Build Your Dreams, Goals And Assignment.

Time Is Your Gift From God.

An acorn cooperates with Time and becomes an oak tree. Babies become leaders, affecting millions.

You Are Not Born Qualified—You Become Qualified.

Moses required preparation. He spent his first forty years learning the Wisdom of the Egyptians. “And Moses was learned in all the Wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds. And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel,” (Acts 7:22-23).

He spent another forty years learning the lessons in leadership and priesthood. “Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb,” (Exodus 3:1).

“And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sinai an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush. When

Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold it, the voice of the Lord came unto him,” (Acts 7:30-31).

Moses was a protégé for eighty years.

His first forty years educated him about *enemies*. His second forty years educated him about *people*.

Preparation. *Preparation*. **PREPARATION.**

View Time As A Wonderful And Glorious Tool God Has Given You To Build Your Dream, Your Goals And Your Assignment. Do not throw it away.

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the Heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace,” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).

Each Moment of Today Is An Opportunity To Advance In Your Assignment.

Your Assignment is an hourly event with a future result.

Remember, you will only succeed with something that is an obsession. Last night, I was reading the biography of the fascinating entrepreneur of our generation, the late Sam Walton, head of the Wal-Mart stores. Throughout the book, he continually referred to the fact that he was obsessed with retailing. He spent

every available moment studying retail sales. Those moments paid off.

5. Those Who Do Not Respect Your Time Will Not Respect Your Wisdom Either.

Respect The Responsibilities of Another.

I had finished a two-day School of The Holy Spirit up North. It had been a glorious two days. The presence of God was so powerful. I loved being with my friends and partners, as always.

However, due to the airline schedule, I had to leave thirty minutes earlier than planned. Another minister was going to finish the session for me. Because of the airline schedule, two flights were necessary and would let me arrive at my destination approximately at 1:00 a.m. in the morning.

My schedule was hectic. In fact, I would barely make the church where I was scheduled. So, I announced to everyone present that my plane schedule was tight. I would be unable to stay afterwards for any additional conversation.

Yet, as I was rushing toward the door with my briefcase, my associate by my side, five to seven people stopped me. Standing in front of me, they insisted that I autograph my books. Some insisted that I hear about an experience they had had.

Each one of them *totally ignored my own schedule*. They had no concern whatsoever.

Did they love me? Not really. They loved *themselves*. Their only obsession was *to get something* they wanted, regardless of the toll it took on me. My needs meant nothing. My own schedule was unimportant to them.

The Holy Spirit is always offended by such insen-

sitivity and uncaring for others, "...in honour preferring one another," (Romans 12:10).

Always make sure your time with someone is appropriate for their schedule. (See Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.)

Reject manipulating, intimidating and abusive words. "You never take time for me" is simply an attempt to intimidate you. Statements like, "You *never* have time for me. You always have time for everyone else!" is *victim* vocabulary. This kind of person has no true regard for others. They are obsessed with themselves. You cannot give them enough time or attention to satisfy them.

Always mark those who show a disregard and disrespect for your time, the most precious gift God gave you. If they do not respect your time, neither will they respect your Wisdom.

When You Honor The Schedule of Others, Favor Will Flow.

Qualify anyone who enters your personal arena of life. What is the criteria for relationship?

That person must truly *desire* something you possess and be *willing to pay the price* for receiving it.

That person must possess something you desire from them and be willing to impart it to you.

Recognize Your Personal "Seeds of Time" As Golden Coins You Place In The Hands of Another.

If you saw a child throw a \$500 gold piece into the gutter, would you hand him several more gold coins? Only a fool would do that. Yet, every day, grubby, greedy and clutching hands grab the gold coins of your Time and throw them into the wind. Guard against this by *pinpointing parasite relationships*.

Avoid problem people who do not value the gold

coins called Time.

6. If You Can Manage A Day, You Can Manage Your Life.

Few People Manage A Day Well. Yet, today is the life you are living. *Yesterday Is In The Tomb And Tomorrow Is In The Womb.* Yesterday is dead and tomorrow is not yet born.

In some sense, *the only place you will ever be is today.* You do not really have a future. When you get there—you will call it *today!*

Managing a day will require planning your day.

Planning is the starting point for any dream or goal that you possess.

What is a plan? A plan is a *written list of arranged actions* necessary to achieve your desired goal. “Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it,” (Habakkuk 2:2).

Jesus planned your future. “In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you,” (John 14:2).

Think for a moment. God scheduled the birth, the crucifixion and resurrection of His Son before the foundation of the earth. “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship Him, whose names are not written in the Book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world,” (Revelation 13:8).

I think it is quite fascinating that God would schedule a meal, the marriage supper, six thousand years ahead! “Blessed are they which are called unto the Marriage Supper of the Lamb,” (Revelation 19:9).

Solomon was specific and detailed when he planned the temple—his \$500 billion dream. You can read 1 Kings for a detailed description of Solomon’s

plan, which includes this passage, “And the house which king Solomon built for the Lord, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits,” (1 Kings 6:2). Solomon was meticulous.

11 Keys In Making Moments Count

1. Keep A Calendar or Day Planner With You At All Times. *What You See Determines What You Desire.* Someone has well said, “A short pencil is better than a long memory.” God instructed us “Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it,” (Habakkuk 2:2).

Your day planner should be handy and kept with you always. If it is too large, you will use its size as an excuse to leave it at home, in the car. At first, carrying anything will seem uncomfortable. However, remember that it is your blueprint for your dreams and goals.

2. Read Continuously. When I am in an airplane, waiting at the airport or sitting in a taxi, I read. I read newspapers, magazines, books or my Bible. I try to absorb everything related to my Assignment. Occasionally, I will read a novel for relaxation. When I do, I have a pen in hand to circle anything in that novel linked to something I want to do with my life.

I am continuously extracting an education from events, people and reading material around me. You can cultivate that kind of appetite, even if you are not born with it.

Clip articles out of newspapers. Tear pages out of magazines, and bind files—anything to strengthen your resolve and focus on the Assignment God is burning

into your life.

3. Keep A Legal Pad And A Pen or A Micro-Cassette With You At All Times. There is probably never a moment I do not have my microcassette in my hand or pocket, or carry a legal pad. Why? *One idea could birth a million miracles.*

Talking is faster than writing.

Someone has said that you can talk six times faster than you can write. I *always* keep notepaper and pen handy. *Always.* However, it is far easier and more productive to dictate into a tape recorder than it is to write longhand on my legal pad. (Admittedly, some of my handwritten notes excite me more when I can *see* them written large in my own handwriting using a black pen.) Even so, when there is a flood of ideas and thoughts pouring through me, I consider the small tape recorder to be a gift from God. Every achiever should own and use one.

4. Ask Questions That Concentrate On The Focus And Quality of Every Conversation. When you are with a lawyer, ask him which three most important things he feels you should know. When you are with your pastor, ask him the three most important daily habits necessary for birthing a powerful relationship with God.

5. Use Equipment or Machines To Do A Job Whenever Possible. Proper equipment increases your productivity. Never have someone do a job that a machine can do instead.

Search for appropriate equipment to accomplish your tasks quickly.

6. Take A Small Step Toward Order Every Day. The purpose of order is to increase productivity

and create comfort.

Order Is The Accurate Arrangement of Things. Order is placing an item where it belongs. Order is keeping your shirts, ties and shoes in the appropriate place in your closet.

Every tiny act of your life will increase order or disorder around you.

Recognize the long-term chaos and losses that disorder will create. If this continues, your momentum will eventually destroy you and your productivity. Successes will become fewer.

Just twenty minutes a day towards order makes a major difference. Little hinges swing big doors. *You Can Get Anywhere You Want To Go If You Are Willing To Take Enough Small Steps.*

So, take an important step toward order every moment of your life.

7. Identify Time-Wasters.

Avoid distractions. Write your daily list of things to do. Protect your schedule. *This is your life.* Make it happen.

Everyone has a hidden agenda. Those around you will be reaching to pull you “off course.” You must be careful *to protect your list of priorities.*

Jesus did. There is a fascinating story in the Bible about it.

Lazarus, a close friend of Jesus, became sick. Mary and Martha, his two sisters, sent word to Jesus to come. However, “When He had heard therefore that he was sick, He abode two days still in the same place where He was,” (John 11:6). Martha was upset, “Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died,” (John 11:21).

Yet, Jesus had deliberately delayed His coming.

He kept His own schedule. He protected His agenda. He did not allow the emergencies of others to get Him off track. *He guarded His list of priorities.*

Only You Know Your Priorities.

Make today count.

8. Set Goals And Update Them Continually.

In 1952 a prominent university discovered that only three out of one-hundred graduates had written down a clear list of goals. Ten years later, their follow-up study showed that three percent of the graduating class had accomplished more financially than the remaining ninety-seven percent of the class.

Those three percent were *the same graduates* who had *written down their goals*. “Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it,” (Habakkuk 2:2).

When you assess and evaluate your goals, you will unclutter your life of the unnecessary.

9. Stay In The Center of Your Expertise.

Do What You Do Best.

Stay focused. I really believe—*The Only Reason Men Fail Is Broken Focus.*

10. Keep Your Appointments Focused And Limited. If someone asks you for a 9:00 appointment, make it “9:00 to 9:20 am.” Always establish a time to conclude the appointment. *Always.* This means that if the person is ten minutes late, you must say, “I am sorry. I only have ten minutes left to meet with you today.” This helps them to become consciously aware of your time.

11. Always Keep Moving Even When Things Around You Hit A Lull. Reach for the telephone and make that important call you have not had time to

make. Pull out some notes and document them, but keep things moving.

Remember, moments really do matter and one minute can make a difference.

5 Facts You Should Know About Planning

1. Planning Is A Written Picture of Your Journey To Your Goal. It takes time. It takes reworking. Still, it is the secret of champions.

2. Planning Helps Eliminate Wrong People From Your Schedule. One of the most successful lawyers in America invests the first hour of every day in carefully planning that day. He believes that quality time should be invested in *qualifying* those who deserve an appointment with him.

3. Planning Focuses Your Attention On Where It Is Needed Most. The late Mary Kay Ash was one of the most successful women of America, worth more than \$300 million. She has said that every morning she would invest time in creating a plan. She chose six tasks she would accomplish each day. She worked Task One as far as she could move it. Then she worked on Task Two. She never worked on Task Six, until she had finished everything she could on the first five.

4. Planning Requires Discipline And Determination Whether You Feel Like It or Not. Planning is often wearisome. Sometimes you will be tempted to think, "It would be a lot quicker to go ahead and begin my work rather than trying to lay out a plan." Avoid the trap of an unplanned day.

5. Planning Will Always Reveal The Shortest Route To Your Goal. It focuses your total attention on the people necessary, the available *time* and the *financial costs* involved.

What is causing you to avoid planning? Some avoid it because they like spontaneity, the freedom of doing what they feel like doing when they feel like doing it. Unfortunately, this kind of behavior ignores the existence of obstacles, unexpected problems and unclear instructions. It is an open invitation to problems. Would you drive an hour to a restaurant without calling ahead to make certain it was open? Certainly not. Would you go Christmas shopping without making certain you had your checkbook or cash with you? Of course not.

Planning time is never, never, never wasted time!

When You Can Manage A Day, You Can Manage Your Life.

85

TIMING

Doing The Right Thing At The Wrong Time Becomes The Wrong Thing.

Esther was the most beautiful woman in 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia. She was not only beautiful, but she understood timing. When Haman, the closest confidant of her husband, the king, secretly planned the assassination of every Jew, she sought for an audience and an appointment with her husband. She was one of the *few* women of her time who refused to use her beauty as an instrument for control and persuasion.

The Bible said she called a fast. She met with the king, and she did not discuss with him and Haman what her problem was. She said, "Could we have another meal?" *She understood timing.* She understood *environment*...she understood *atmosphere*. (See Esther 5.)

Abigail was a master communicator. She was married to a fool, Nabal, and when he refused to feed David's ten men, David went crazy and said, "I'm going to kill him and everything he has." She heard about it, but she did not discuss it with her husband. She grabbed the servants, rushed down the trail, fell at David's feet and started talking to the *king* in his heart. Later, *at the right time*, she told her husband. (See 1 Samuel 25.)

If you read Proverbs 31, you will read about what I call the *Uncommon Woman*. Some call her the Proverbs 31 woman. The Bible said she rose up early, and the Bible talks about her sense of timing.

5 Keys To Timing

1. Doing The Right Thing At The Wrong Time Becomes The Wrong Thing. Truth before its time appears as heresy.

2. Always Assess An Environment Before You Attempt To Alter It or Change It. Bishop David Oyedepo in Lagos, Nigeria, spoke something to me sometime ago when we were at supper together. It is one of the greatest Wisdom Keys, and is critical to your life. He did not say it in these words. I guess this is *my wording*, but it came out of *his heart*. *Always Assess An Environment Before You Attempt To Influence It, Change It or Alter It.*

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the Heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace,” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). There is a time for things.

3. The Difference In People Is Their Capability For Timing. “For there is a time there for every purpose and for every work,” (Ecclesiastes 3:17).

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you,” (Matthew 6:33).

“Let all things be done decently and in order,” (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Donald Trump, the remarkable billionaire from New York, a brilliant man, a come-back man, a man who has overcome so many obstacles...was asked why he only gave his son five dollars a week when he was a billionaire. He said, “I want to teach him the importance of money, and now is the time to do it.”

Timing. I gave my son in his teenage years a brand new car, and my mother said, “Oh, son, you made a mistake. Oh, son!” I was just sick that she said that because she was right ninety-nine percent of the time. Sure enough, it was too soon. He did not know how to *appreciate* it. He did not even know how to take care of it or wash it. It was the wrong timing.

4. Your Gifts Should Have The Right Timing. Conversation should be at the right time. You know people by their sense of protocol and their sense of timing. A young man was waiting outside my office a number of years ago and my secretary said, “He wants to see you. He is desperate to see you.” I said, “Tell him I will see him tomorrow at 10:00. I am busy. I am finishing up projects.” She came back and said, “He is desperate. He wants to see you. He said he will not leave. You are his mentor. He wants to be your protégé. He wants to work for you and wants to travel with you.”

I misunderstood his passion. I did not realize he

ignored protocol. Finally, I said, “Well bring him in.” He cried and said, “I want to be your protégé.” I went ahead and hired him. I had to fire him in twelve weeks. He disrupted my staff. He was a torment.

I look back and realize that he did not accept my assessment of timing. I had told him to wait until tomorrow at 10:00. *He ignored the first instruction I ever gave him.* I would never hire anybody again who ignores my first instruction I give them. *Never.* You do not qualify for the second instruction if you cannot do the first. *God Will Never Advance Your Instructions Beyond Your Last Act of Disobedience.*

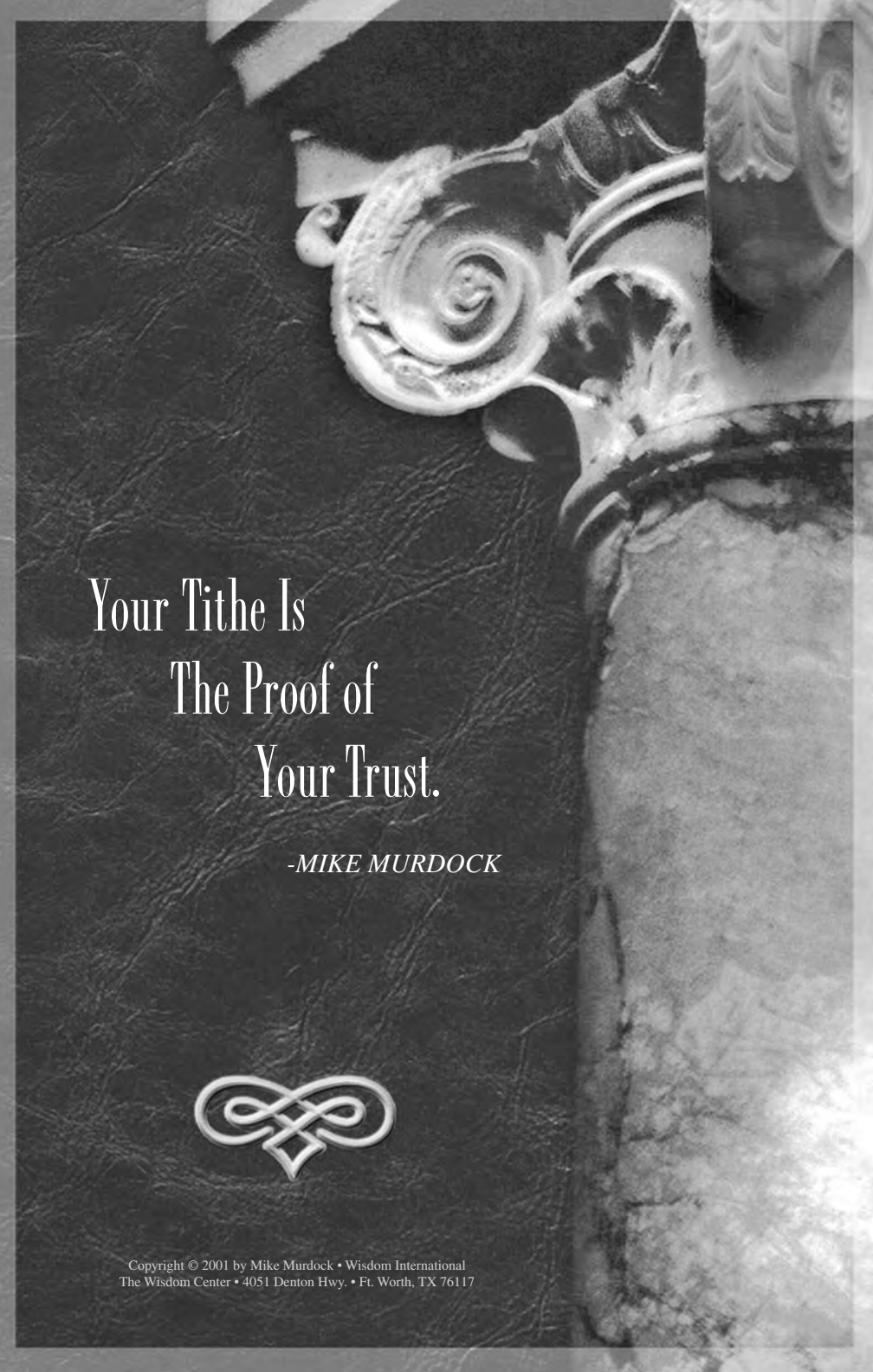
5. Look At The People Around Your Life And Educate Them About Timing. Talk to your staff and to your family about timing. There is a time to do things, and there is a time not to. Wrong timing always produces wrong results. Wrong timing produces tragedies. *God is a God of meticulous timing.*

Timing is everything. Naomi mentored Ruth. “Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor. Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking. And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do. And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do. And she went down unto the floor, and did according to

all that her mother in law bade her,” (Ruth 3:1-6).

She said, “It is time for a man in your life. Go down there, but do not talk to him while he is eating and do not talk to him while he is working. Wait until he *wants* to talk to you, and *then* open your heart.”

Wrong Timing Aborts Great Blessings.



Your Tithe Is
The Proof of
Your Trust.

-MIKE MURDOCK



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MASTER KEYS IN RECEIVING THE TITHE AND OFFERINGS



Do Not Hide Your Giving.

You will experience a desire to give privately and confidentially throughout your ministry. I know that this occurs frequently in my own ministry. There are times I am embarrassed or shy about letting others know when I have helped someone.

However, there are other times that it is very important to give publicly, enthusiastically and unashamedly. You will sometimes see this happen when a well-known minister gives a large donation to another minister, or when an evangelist receives a public offering for the pastor or whatever. This always excites me because of three things.

1. It Is A Public Declaration of A Person's Love And Confidence In Another Ministry.

2. It Is A Person's Declaration That They Appreciate The Blessings of God And Want To Sow Back Into The Work of God.

3. It Inspires And Motivates Others To Unlock Their Own Faith And Sow Their Own Seeds. Private donations have their place, but do very

little to inspire or motivate anyone else to grow.

It is interesting to see that Jesus Himself was not against public giving. “And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And He called unto Him His disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living,” (Mark 12:41-44).

I had an interesting experience several years ago. A minister that I was preaching a crusade for became very nervous, upset and actually resentful about some large offerings in my crusade offerings. As he stood in the pulpit, he pulled out a ten dollar bill and said, “I want all of us to make this a \$10 night.” It was a deliberate attempt to control and limit the gifts of his people to my ministry. What he failed to realize was that he destroyed the Harvest that God wanted to give to his people.

Men have many ways of hurting themselves. One of them is to become stingy, greedy and attempt to hoard the blessings of God for themselves. To me, greed is just another form of stealing. It is withholding something that God is motivating us to give to another. Greed, in this pastor’s case, was robbery because he stole from his people an *opportunity* to sow Seeds towards their future.

Get Excited About Helping Others To Use Their Faith

A fellow evangelist told me one time, "I have never seen anyone so excited about telethons as you are. Most preachers dread telethons, but it seems to make you happy for some reason." I had to admit that it was true. I guess there are varied reasons for this. The greatest parade of miracles ever set in motion during my lifetime was launched during a telethon.

Telethons are the only time that thousands will ever have their faith activated. *Dormant* faith is sad. *Unmotivated* faith is tragic. *Unplanted Seeds* mean *Unreaped Harvests*. I think you can understand why I get very excited over helping you find the master keys that can motivate others to sow their Seeds in the work of God. Let me explain.

Suppose we were close friends. Each day we talked across the fence as neighbors. One day you found out that a local dealer was closing out Corvettes at one-half price. Would you tell me about the opportunity to own a Corvette at fifty percent off? I think so!

Suppose you knew that I was looking for another house to purchase and you discovered that a house was going to be repossessed at fifty percent of its appraised value. Would you tell me about it? I hope so.

Suppose you saw me daily wearing the same old clothes and found out about a special sale on clothes at half price. Would you give me that kind of information? If we were friends at all, you would not hesitate. Well, that is the way I feel about Seed-Faith.

Then why do all ministers not talk enthusiastically

cally about giving? They do not know the news. They have not discovered “the Principle.” *They Cannot Transfer What They Do Not Know.*

4 Things To Avoid During Offerings

1. Do Not Apologize For Receiving Offerings. Jesus gave His life on Calvary. It is a small thing for us to give our money. Jesus stretched His arms for hours with spikes driven through His hands. It is a little thing to ask others to reach for their Seeds to plant in His work.

2. Do Not Minimize The Importance of The Offering By Diverting The People’s Attention With Special Announcements And Special Guests Singing. Let your people feel the joy of sowing. Let them sense the climate of making God their partner. Do not distract them. Do not feel obligated to entertain them with something to take their mind off of their giving! It is too vital, too powerful, *too important* to their *future*.

3. Do Not Weary The People And Drag Down The Service With Tiresome And Unnecessary Explanations of The Church’s Financial Problems. They have their own problems. They came to get answers, not hear your questions.

Some time ago I was in a service where a minister belabored the fact that the air conditioner was broken, the parking lot needed repair and they needed new furniture for the church office. I looked back and saw a young divorcee with two children sitting on the pew beside her. I wondered what she was thinking. “Was her husband behind on child support?” “Was she able to

buy them any new clothes?”—her children were poorly dressed—and yet, the minister droned on and on about the bills of the church. Not one time did he ever say what God’s purpose of reward was to those who sow their Seeds toward the church needs.

4. Do Not Magnify Your Ministry or Church Needs Above The People’s Needs. The real church is the people, not the building. The building can burn down, but the church will still remain. I have seen it happen over and over again through my many, many years of evangelism. The moment that a pastor becomes more interested in maintenance and upkeep of the building he created than the personal needs of his people, his congregation will dwindle, his own income will plummet. We exist for the people; they do not exist for us.

7 Master Keys On Motivating Others To Give

1. Be Bold, Confident And Enthusiastic When You Talk To Your People About Giving. Do not look at your shoes, or the floor, or the ceiling. Look at them eye to eye. Do not scratch your head. Do not look embarrassed or sheepish. You are there, representing God’s personal guarantee of blessing.

You stand at the *intersection* of God’s promise and their Seed.

You are their *connection* to tomorrow.

You are their *bridge* to prosperity.

2. Tell Them What Their Seed Will Do For The Kingdom of God. Talk to them about the souls they can reach, the families that will be restored, the

lives that will be healed because of their participation in the work of God.

Everybody Wants To Be Significant In The Kingdom, And Through Our Giving, We Can Be. I think this is one of the Master Keys to so many successful ministries. They show us what is happening as we plant our Seeds. The Gospel is going forth through various means; lives are being changed. I think it is wise when a pastor will hold in his hand a testimony letter from someone who has been converted to Christ through the church's ministry, or have someone who has been recently converted come and stand with him on the platform just before receiving the offering. This states, "This is what you and I are doing as we are partners together in the Kingdom of God." People need to see the results of their giving into the Kingdom.

3. Explain What Their Seed-Faith Giving Will Accomplish In Their Own Lives And Businesses. This really was the method that Jesus used to inspire giving. He showed the results, the Harvest one could expect from one's giving. "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again," (Luke 6:38).

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour

you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts,” (Malachi 3:8-12).

“Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine,” (Proverbs 3:9-10).

Do not forget that your people sitting on those pews have been struggling and straining against a world that has been taking from them all week—a boss who is stingy, employees who may steal items from their employer’s business, an ex-spouse who will not pay child support, a car that is broken down, a roof that leaks. They are experiencing trouble on every side. Satan is attempting to strip them of everything they have fought and used their faith to gain. My dear minister, if you do not help them use their faith during “Seed-Sowing,” who in the world will?

4. Show Them The Advantages And Benefits of Their Future Harvest God Has Promised To Them. So many people feel unworthy and undeserving of anything God would ever do for them. It is up to you as the minister of the Gospel to show them how many missionaries they will be able to help, Bibles they can publish, souls they can win, as God begins to prosper them in their homes and businesses.

5. Become Knowledgeable of God’s

Opinion Regarding Financial Prosperity. You cannot communicate what you do not really know yourself. Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, Oral Roberts and Jerry Savelle have tremendous books and cassettes that will help you grow in this area. You must consider the needs of your people and the future of your own ministry *important enough* to dig out this knowledge.

6. Take The Time That Is Necessary To Give Adequate Information And Motivation To Your People. I rarely attend services where they give me adequate time to feel the burden, understand the need and then write out a check. Do not embarrass people by rushing through an offering and causing an usher to have to stand and wait in the aisle until someone can complete a check. How tragic that we make it so difficult for people to be a part of the work of God. You see, there may be a businessman sitting in the rear thinking of the telephone call from the IRS or a letter notifying him that he owes an additional \$15,000 on his taxes. Give him time to understand what you want him to do. *Information Breeds Confidence.* Take a few moments to help him understand what the offering will be used for.

7. Demonstrate Your Appreciation By Providing Offering Envelopes That Truly Reflect Your Respect For Their Seed. It is unfortunate that cereal companies value their product enough to provide beautiful packaging even more than the church world does the “offerings” of the people. I have visited only one church in the history of my ministry that provided me with an envelope large enough to put my check in without folding it or wrinkling it to an almost invisible

size!

Is the envelope really that important? Well, I think it reveals a certain mentality about us in the church. In fact, most of us tend to think that it is a waste of time for the ushers to even give the people a special envelope during the offering time. Therefore, we shove these, handful of tiny, colorless, unappealing little envelopes into the back of the pew for easy accessibility.

What happens? They become chewing gum wrappers or memo pads. How in the world can our people respect an offering envelope when we do not respect ourselves in the pulpit? No, an envelope will not necessarily unleash your faith in giving, but it certainly adds a statement of respect for the labor, toil and sacrificial giving of the congregation.

Wise ministers are beginning to recognize the motivation of changing the color and layouts of each offering envelope. They are realizing that people like to direct their giving toward particular causes and projects. Each month the envelope reflects an identity with a cause or project. When we want someone to “Seed” into our building program, why not give them a special envelope with a sketch of your new building on it! When we ask them to “Seed” toward a special missionary project, why not let the envelope be a visual reminder of the souls they are helping overseas? Why? Why? Why? Maybe we just do not take the time to think.

Respecting The Offerings of The People

The most important thing in this whole section is to respect giving as God respects it. Accept it as part of the formula for unlocking our faith, and receiving the miracles and blessings God wants us to experience. Do not treat offering times lightly. Do not assign the offering time to a junior member of the staff or someone in the congregation in an attempt to disassociate yourself from the responsibility. In our government we send junior officials to represent our President if the death of a foreign official is of less importance. The more important an event is, the higher ranking official is sent.

Do not belittle this special time of helping the people plant their Seeds for their future Harvest. If you act like an offering time is nonessential, even a nuisance, it will show up. Treat every offering as if it is the *turning point* in somebody's life during that service, because, my dear minister friend, it will be.

Remember, that it is not always easy to unlock your faith. There are many times that ministers help me unleash my Seed. Without their words of motivation, I would tend to hoard, hold back, and delay my sowing, and a *delayed Seed* is a *delayed Harvest*.

Stop making statements to the people that the tithe is a debt we owe. How could it be when we owe everything we possess back to God? No, as Oral Roberts has said many times, "It is a Seed that we sow."

3 Suggestions For Presenting Your Ministry During The Offering

1. Know Your Facts And Statistics. Be able to give them clearly, in easy to understand language. If you are a missionary, it is not necessary to give every single detail of overseas culture, but have a grasp which clearly reveals your confidence and your knowledge.

2. Use Visual Aids And Graphics, When Possible. This helps your audience or congregation to get a picture of what is in your own mind. They will not know what you know, so help them discover it.

3. Show Them What You Have Already Accomplished In The Past. People appreciate someone who has truly attained success. Many missionaries know the value of sharing a single testimony of an overseas conversion. This has helped to unlock the joy in the hearts of their partners. This is not only for missionaries, but pastors as well.

One of the most successful pastors I know, showed me recently how, at the conclusion of each year, he shows an actual screen of statistics to his congregation; how many have been saved, baptized and reached through television.

You see, so many things happen to cloud and blur our sense of accomplishment. It is your responsibility to *review*, *remind* and *reveal* the actual successes you have *achieved* through your ministry. Your newsletter can play an important part as well. It gives the story of your victories. Yes, some will consider it boastful, but remember the Apostle Paul was continually *discussing* his accomplishments, trials and victories.

Suggestions For Your “Need-Conscious” Presentation

Tell your people exactly what you want them to do. Do you need twenty people to give \$1,000? Then tell them what you are asking *God* to do. Do you need everyone to sow a Seed of twenty dollars? Then tell them. Do you want them to be a monthly partner with you for six months? Then, tell them. It is so vital that you explain to people the burden and plan which God has laid upon your heart. Show them the urgency and uniqueness of your project. Is it to bring Bibles into China? Why right now? Why the urgency? Will the country close soon? Is this a unique opportunity? If so, why is it unique? Apply this kind of questioning to your own presentation.

It is so easy in the ministry to think that everybody knows what you have labored to know. I will give you an example.

Some time ago, I was helping some friends of mine in a telethon. I asked them, “What is in it for your viewers?” They replied, “What do you mean?” I inquired, “What are your people going to receive as a result of calling and making sacrificial faith promises?” One of the ministers said vigorously, “Well, we will have to go off the air if they do not call.” He missed my point. He was so obsessed with staying on television that he failed to realize that there had to be a *mutual benefit* for the viewer before that viewer could be expected to participate.

3 Reasons Your People Want To Support Your Ministry

Every minister inspires his people to give through different motivations. As I have listened, observed and considered various ministries through television, radio and local churches, I think there are three basic reasons that you want to help or participate, in another's ministry. Whether you are a pastor, evangelist or missionary, you will find that God will use you in some of these three ways, to help involve people in His work.

- ▶ *Need-Consciousness.*
- ▶ *Deed-Consciousness.*
- ▶ *Seed-Consciousness.*

1. Need-Consciousness.

“But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth,” (1 John 3:17-18).

A well-known minister friend of mine that I have known for a long time has this particular anointing. I found him to be an extremely sensitive man with an intense desire to accomplish something for God. When he asks people to help him feed hungry children, spread the Gospel through television, etc., he usually endeavors to show us the needs of others. He talks to us about our compassion, caring, and to use the material blessings of God to help bring healing and restoration to others. He makes us “need-conscious.”

If you are a young missionary, this will probably be the way God anoints you to present your ministry to the body of Christ. Everyone wants to be needed and

know that there is something which they can do to help someone else. They simply need information, motivation and a *clear direction* of what to do. Even unbelieving sinners arrange telethons to help the unfortunate. So, there is a basic need in all of us to want to participate in someone's miracle.

As the Lord anoints you in this way, do not be shy, nor timid, nor bashful, but be bold. Do not hint. Ask directly and honestly, and you will be amazed at how many people appreciate a straight-forward approach that you need their help to accomplish your dream and goal of helping others. Yes, you will be criticized by some; that is part of it. Still, the fact that you are helping so many will soon dissolve the pride.

2. Deed-Consciousness.

In my opinion this is when we want to become a part of a noble worthwhile cause or project that someone else is initiating. It is when we are consciously making a contribution to something that is *significant, noteworthy*...being a part of something that is great. For this reason, we may want to sponsor a room with our name on the door as the donor. Or, we may make a faith-promise of \$1,000 and, in recognition, receive our name engraved in a brass plate, etc.

Now, as a young minister, it may be a while before you are given this much responsibility or task by God. The point is that in "Deed-Consciousness," it is important that you show to your people the *greatness*, the *beauty*, the *uniqueness*, the *effect* that your project or cause will have upon others. Many churches use this when they have people to sponsor a square foot in their new building or piece of property.

Recently, I was in a church where they asked for

someone who would sponsor a new piano and organ. Two members of the congregation became excited about being a part of something so significant in the local church. The church would have had a difficult time proving that there was a desperate, heartbreaking need for new instruments. They opened the door to allowing others to be a part of something beautiful and significant. I call it “Deed-Conscious Giving.”

Many years ago when I first started in the ministry I had some wonderful experiences in this area. When I needed a cassette duplicating machine to help duplicate my sermons each night, I asked the people to assist me in the purchase of this duplicator. I asked the Lord to inspire ten people to share “in the purchase of this machine” which would help me get the Gospel into the hands of hundreds of families through cassette tape ministry. I explained what the machine cost, how many tapes I could duplicate, etc., and within moments, I had received the thousand dollars necessary for my machine. That is not all! The pastor approached me after church and said the congregation would like to purchase an additional machine for me, so I received two! The people were responsive to doing great deeds.

One well-known minister once said, “I have never raised a cent in my life! I have only raised projects.” The same congregation who gives \$100 in an average offering, where no purpose is explained, will give \$30,000 the next time when they receive information about a special project. It is the wise minister who takes the time to lay out a plan and program which helps his partners and congregation understand the impact their Seed-Faith Gifts can have.

Be specific. Tell the people exactly what you want

them to do or give. Show them how you intend to accomplish your goal, and they will want to be a part of it. Few people want to invest in a dream where the dreamer has not even taken the time nor pains to develop a plan.

Deed-Consciousness is my favorite motivation for inspiring others to get involved with God's work. It *unlocks* their faith, and that makes their Harvest *possible*. Deed-Consciousness helps them look beyond their act of giving, and to the results of their faith in God.

3. Seed-Consciousness.

A third reason for giving is "Seed-Consciousness." "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully," (2 Corinthians 9:6).

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of Hosts," (Malachi 3:10-11).

"But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life," (Mark 10:30).

This is sowing your offering as a Seed into the soil of the Kingdom of God. You release it, as a point of faith, toward an expected and desired result. This is the remarkable understanding that is beginning to

awaken around the world. I personally believe it is the truth that satan fears and dreads the most.

I am persuaded that only a tiny percentage of our ministers really grasp the potential power of the Seed-Faith Principle. I know that we do not understand it, because we are not experiencing the Harvest we so desperately need. If we *understand sowing*, we will *experience Harvest*.

I really had a lot of prejudice against this “reason for giving,” in my early years of ministry. My first reaction was to reject it because it looked as if I could purchase a miracle with my offering. Then it dawned on me that if that were possible, everyone could be “buying,” seeing and experiencing miracles! It also seemed to me that if I gave to God to “get” or “receive” something back in return, that was greed on my part. Then, it dawned on me that greed was hoarding, and *not giving*.

It is impossible to give your way into greed! In fact, it is my giving that proves my dominion of greed.

Further thought revealed more. When I give my sins to Christ, I give with the expectation of receiving His forgiveness. When I give my life to Him, I expect to receive His joy and inner peace. When He spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well, He gave her an incentive, a mental picture of the reward she could expect for sowing the Seed of her very life, rivers of living water...she would never thirst again.

What was the motivation that Jesus gave for those who would bring the Seed of their very life to Him? “Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye

shall find rest unto your souls,” (Matthew 11:28-29).

It was a remarkable day in my life when the “Reward System” of the kingdom became clear to me in the Scriptures. I had lived with such sin-consciousness, guilt-consciousness, fear-consciousness and hell-consciousness because of all the negative “Gospel” ministry I had heard.

Then, suddenly the light dawned. I saw something I had never seen before. I realized, yes, it was true that a man reaps what he sows. The joy inside me unlocked when I realized I could order my Harvest by deciding the Seed I wanted to plant.

You see, your life is a Seed, your words are Seeds, your love is a Seed, your money is a Seed, your talents are Seeds.

A Seed Is Anything You Possess That You Are Capable of Giving Away. God gives everyone a bag of Seeds at the beginning of their life. What we do with those Seeds determines the *size of our bag* as we progress along the road of life.

If we keep, hoard and internalize what God has given us, we diminish in worth, influence and effectiveness. What we plant and give away enlarges, expands and multiplies us.

You see, selfishness and “self-care” are not the same thing. Selfishness is depriving someone else of something, to advantage and benefit ourselves. Self-care is using what God has given you to become more productive in His Kingdom. That explains the parable that Jesus spoke concerning talents and gifts. What you sow into others will be reproduced back to you. “Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord,” (Ephesians 6:8).

Elijah used the Seed-Faith Principle as the reason for the widow in 1 Kings 17, to give her last meal into the ministry.

- ▶ He did not use *need-consciousness*. (He said nothing to her about the raven not returning, nor the brook drying up.)
- ▶ He did not use *deed-consciousness*. (He did not say very much about his projects or plans for his future ministry.)
- ▶ He declared the Principle of *Seed-Faith* because the woman needed a Harvest more than Elijah needed her Seed. She needed food far more than he needed a new building.

That to me is so very beautiful because it demonstrates something so many of us often forget—that God wants to be included in our future.

What is Seed-Faith? It is sowing a Seed out of your own present need as a point of faith to unlock an invisible, but desired Harvest.

This is what excites me so much about the Seed-Faith reason for giving. It connects me to a future with God. Seed-Faith is my link to God's presence tomorrow. God is a God of the now with a desire to be in your tomorrow.

This may explain the great blindness and adversity that often surrounds the Seed-Faith teaching. Since it is impossible to please God without using our faith, it is the method that excites God. Seed-Faith is a direct invitation for God to get involved in your life and in your plans. Sowing a Seed in faith for a Harvest obligates God to your future and He wants it that way.

My life turned around through Seed-Faith. I

stopped becoming angry at people for lack of support when I began to understand Seed-Faith. I stopped blaming the economy for my financial difficulties and learned that God truly is my Source, my Total Source. His methods will vary. The people He uses to minister to me may change, but He is my unchanging, unfailing Source of Supply.

Additional Notes

Each of these three reasons for giving are Scriptural, important and rewarding. I have shared all three with congregations throughout my ministry. The most rewarding has been the Seed-Faith concept because it links the people's giving with their God. It helps them use their faith. It gives them something to look forward to. It gives God a chance to get involved in their life with a miracle. In other words, their Seed is more than a payment on the bills of the ministry, it is just the beginning of their own miracles and blessings. It is God's chance to prove Himself of His very existence in their lives. (See Malachi 3:10-11.)

My Personal Prayer For You

I feel so impressed to say a brief prayer for you in your ministry and your finances at this point. When I went to find material on finances and offerings, there was almost nothing available. The bookstores were crammed with books on every other subject but this one. Sometimes, I feel that we have overlooked this most important vehicle and tool to carry the Gospel throughout the world.

“Heavenly Father, I am so thankful today for the

privilege of sharing the Seed-Faith Principle with a precious minister who reads this at this very moment. I know how difficult it is to make changes in my own life, philosophy and concepts. It is such a temptation to adjust and adapt to present limitations rather than become teachable, flexible and willing to learn. So I pray for my dear friend and minister today. Oh, Father, I pray that You honor the Seed of his or her very life as well as the Seeds they have planted in other ministries. In the precious Name of Jesus, Your very best Seed that You planted at Calvary, I ask today for a 100-fold return for my brother or sister. Grant them favor with people, unexpected opportunities, and an abundance of financial blessing to equip them to complete Your dream and goal in their lives. Help them to rise against adversity and those who would confront them on this issue with doubt, accusation and even question their motives. Give them a peace of mind...a contentment in their heart. Most of all, prove Yourself to them through the Harvest they begin to experience through their Seed-Faith, in Jesus' name. Amen."

12 Wisdom Keys On The Seed

- 1. Seed-Faith Is Sowing Something You Have Been Given For Something Else You Have Been Promised.**
- 2. A Seed of Nothing Always Creates A Harvest of Nothing.**
- 3. If What You Hold In Your Hand Is Not Enough To Be Your Harvest, It Must Be Your Seed.**
- 4. The Quality of The Soil Determines The**

Future of The Seed.

5. The Quality of Your Seed Determines The Quality of Your Harvest.

6. The Seed That Leaves Your Hand Never Leaves Your Life; It Enters Your Future Where It Multiplies.

7. Whatever You Sow Is Your Seed; Whatever You Keep Is Your Harvest.

8. Your Seed Is Anything That Benefits Another; Your Harvest Is Anything That Benefits You.

9. When You Ask God For A Harvest, He Will Always Ask You For A Seed.

10. When God Talks To You About A Seed, He Has A Harvest On His Mind.

11. You Can Create With Your Seed What You Cannot Buy With Your Money.

12. Your Seed Is The Only Influence You Have Over Your Future.

RECOMMENDED INVESTMENTS:

Ten Lies Many People Believe About Money (Book/B-04/32 pg/\$5)

Seeds of Wisdom on Seed-Faith (Book/B-16/32 pg/\$3)

87

THE TONGUE



Life And Death Are In The Power of The Tongue.

The tongue decides what lives or dies...pain or pleasure...an offence, an injustice.

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof,” (Proverbs 18:21). When you control your tongue, you can control *your entire life*.

“Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles,” (Proverbs 21:23). God gave us the tongue to generate pleasure. Words are the Seeds for feelings. Recall for a moment how you feel when someone walks up and says, “Wow, you look great today.” Something goes all through you. “Oh, I’ve never seen you look this good.” *Their words were the Seeds that created your feelings.*

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice,” (Ephesians 4:29, 31).

No man can tame his tongue. The role of The Holy Spirit is to control your tongue, the rudder for the ship of your life. “But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison,” (James 3:8).

The other day God gave me a real picture of my calling, “The battle of the pen.” Several years ago I woke up one day and I went to The Secret Place, and I began to cry. I felt like The Holy Spirit spoke to my heart, “*I am looking for a pen on the earth.*” I cried the entire day. I called my office and said, “I know the center of my Assignment. God wants me to listen to what He tells me, write it and sow it...sow the books all around the world.” Sometimes when you listen to the news or when you read poisonous words in a newspaper, you say, “God, use my mouth, use my pen and use my tongue to glorify You, to magnify You.”

“But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison,” (James 3:8). “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile,” (1 Peter 3:10).

The other day I heard a devastating phrase on television. The phrase was something like this, “How far do you think the president will go to in advancing the agenda of the religious right?” It was one of those questions like, “Have you quit beating your wife?” There is no way to win with a yes or no. It is like, “Have you quit lying?” “Have you stopped stealing yet?” There are some questions that are to entrap people, and this is what The Word says. If you are going to see good life and good days, refrain your tongue from evil and the lips that they speak no guile. This is a real temptation in your life...it is the same for mine...to get on *their* level when they come against you with words. We all have that ability to destroy; it is very difficult to refrain from speaking words that do not hurt.

I wrote a song one time.

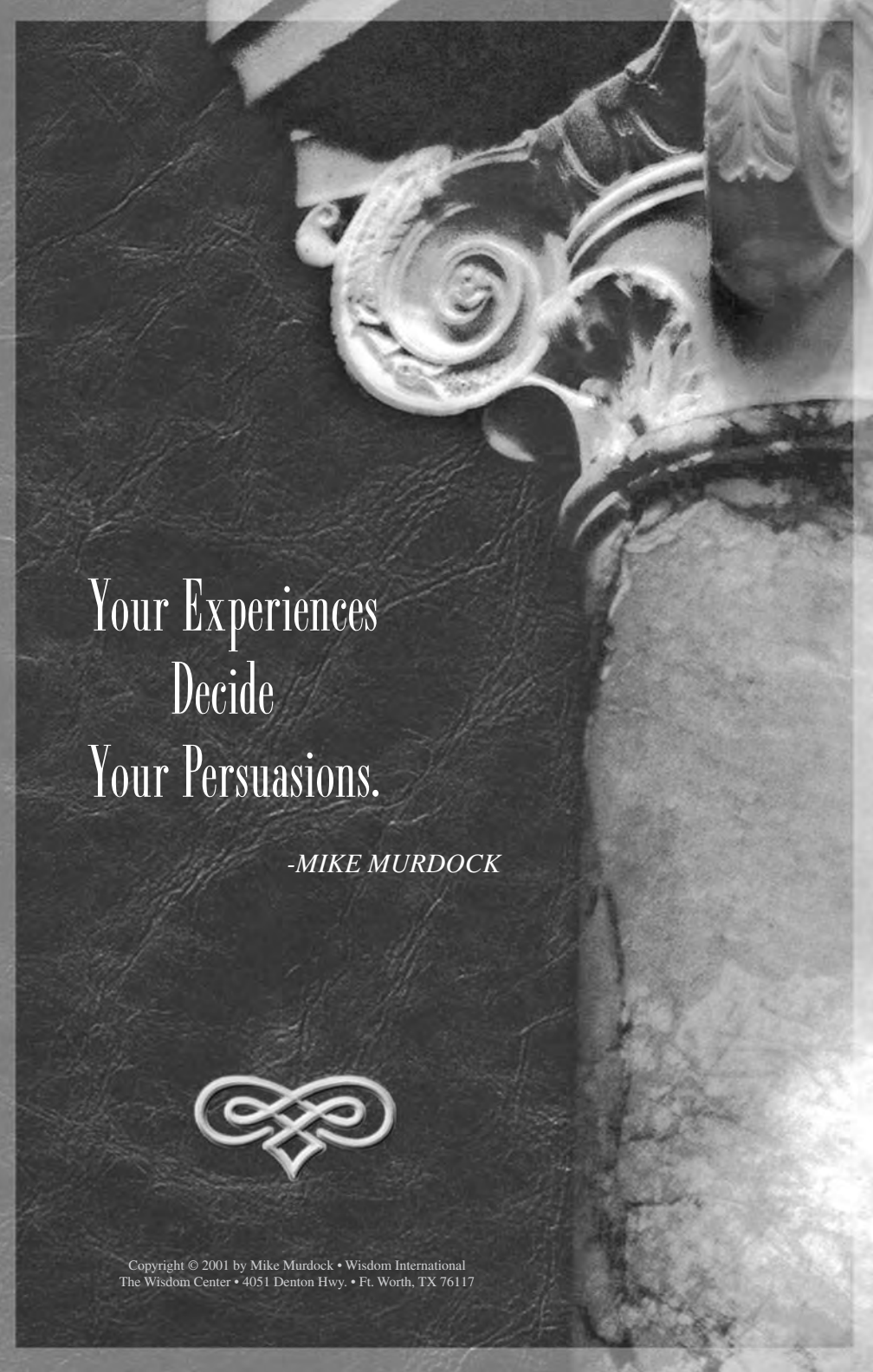
“The kindest word is an unkind word unsaid.
The kindest letter is an unkind letter unread.
Words unspoken leave hearts unbroken.
The kindest word is an unkind word just left
unsaid.”

My father taught me for years that it is not what others say to you that is going to hurt you; it is what *you say to them*, that will hurt you.

You Will Never Reach The Palace Talking Like A Peasant.

Today God has given you a tongue. The tongue...God has given it to you to create life, not death. Speak words of cheer. Whatever you do, speak words of encouragement, *words of love*. You measure everybody's character by what comes out of their mouth. That is how we measure character. Someone said, “Well, words are cheap.” No, they are not. Words launch *wars*. Words create *broken homes*. Words *crush hope*. Words *crush dreams*. Words *destroy credibility*. *Do not tell me words are cheap.*

It is very, very important that you let God use your tongue to bless people today.



Your Experiences
Decide
Your Persuasions.

-MIKE MURDOCK



88

TRAVELING MINISTRY

Your Experiences Decide Your Persuasions.

A traveling ministry has a whole different philosophy, a different personality, than a pastor.

A pastor has days, weeks, hours to build and train his people to understand him. You have seconds. You have minutes. That is why God gives you a very different personality. Usually an evangelist is more adaptable even than a pastor... because we can adapt. A lot of pastors could not adapt to what we adapt to. It is a new group of people, a new personality.

As you know, you almost have to have many personalities because you go to one place, and they are very stilted and ritualistic. Then, you go to another place, and they are free as a bird. You go to one place and they treat you like a king, and the next place hardly even knows your name.

So, you are constantly in a flux. Churches are different from one day to the next day. Next day. Next day. They treat you completely different. Some feel like you are an answer to prayer. The next church cannot wait until you leave. The pastor will say, "You think this is great. Wait until next week when so and so gets here."

You have to be understanding that your personality is very, very different. You are flexible. You are adaptable. You are also probably going to be more

aggressive than the average pastor. You are aggressive because you have one hour to establish credibility and change an entire belief system. You are there to make an immediate impact.

Also, pastors basically will not understand this thing. When they hand you a check at the end of the week, they look at that check as an incredible salary, but you pay everything out of that little salary. You pay a house note...they usually have a parsonage. You pay your car...the church usually provides them a car. You pay the off week when you are sick...the church takes care of them when they are sick. You buy your own building out of that little salary. They do not buy their church out of their weekly salary. You pay your secretary out of your salary. You pay your manager out of your salary. Everything is out of that check, and they will bring to you a check and say...“Boy, this is incredible. Aren’t you glad to get this?” Well, you don’t get it. It covers everything. Not a pastor I know of is buying his church out of his weekly salary. So, he thinks differently and most pastors are like you. For instance, you may not be educated about them. They are not educated about you.

Now, I am a pastor’s preacher in the sense of I am very, very pro-pastor. My father has been a pastor my whole life, so I think like a pastor. I am constantly there.

Now there are two sides in the relationship. Pastors have to put up with people that are really impressed by you. A person will come up to you and say, “Wow, I’ve never heard such preaching.” And the pastor has just had to put this man in his place. You have no idea...you cannot read people. The people that

come up to you and press you as an evangelist are thorns in the side of most pastors. They will brag on your preaching, but they have just put the pastor through torment. They want you to come by their business...so there are two different kinds of ministries.

I started traveling over forty years ago, full-time. So, I trust this proves helpful. I have separated the methods of travel for your benefit. These notes are strictly my opinion, and not necessarily directed by a "hand-written note in the sky!" Knowing a few helpful hints in traveling can make a big difference in enjoying this portion of your ministry.

Advantages of Traveling

Ministers who travel are usually the most interesting speakers, enjoyable friends and the most flexible relationships you will experience. Travel exposes you to other people: their mentality and reasoning, their achievements, their lifestyles. True, traveling is an expensive education...but it is also one of life's most rewarding and fulfilling experiences.

4 Advantages of Travel

- 1. Changes Are Stimulating.**
- 2. New Friendships.**
- 3. Exposure To New Ideas And Viewpoints.**
- 4. Expansion of Your Personal Ministry.**

4 Disadvantages of Travel

- 1. Produces Great Fatigue On The Physical Body.**

2. Can Be Devastating To A Family Relationship With Wife And Children Unless They Travel With You, Which Is Sometimes Unfeasible Due To Expenses.

3. Limits Your Ability To Concentrate On Daily Priorities...such as a good health program, jogging and working out in a local gym, book writing or song writing. Some will disagree with me on this, but not all of us have the remarkable concentration ability of Lester Sumrall who can write his books like Gordon Lindsay in airports, hotel rooms or anywhere. I personally have found, in my traveling, that the completion of book writing and song writing is extremely difficult in a constantly changing environment.

4. Exposure To Opposing Opinions And Viewpoints Can Be Distracting And Destructive To Your Focus And Concentration On Your Own Calling.

Traveling Affects Children

In my opinion, children of traveling ministers seem to be more mature, more friendly and outgoing, more flexible, more intuitive than children of pastors. On the other hand, the children of pastors seem more secure, stable and possibly less inclined to rebellion, due to home “roots.”

Traveling Alone

There are several successful ministers who stay away from home, their wife and children for weeks and months at a time. Some appear to be successful, I do

not know. To me, success is not “staying” married but *enjoying* your marriage. I do not think it is wise to leave your wife at home, nor to be away from your children for several days at a time. They need *your influence*. You need *their presence*.

A minister traveling alone may become very vulnerable to temptations and depression. It may cost financially (especially if you travel by air), but I think the advantages of a strong marriage far outweigh the expenses you may incur.

C. M. Ward told me one time that if he could start his ministry over, he would not book his crusades back to back. However, he would close on a Sunday night, go home, remain home for one week, then start the next crusade the next Sunday. This demands a special faith on your part for the finances, but I believe God honors such respect for your home, family and for your future health as well.

9 Suggestions For Family Travel

Let me share a few suggestions that I hear from traveling ministers and their wives:

1. Stay At Hotels That Are Spacious. Or, ask for a suite. Your marriage is worth it.

2. Carry Books And Other Reading Material That Make Your Private Time A Growing Time Together.

3. Devote A Portion of Each Day or One Day A Week For Time Together In Recreation.

4. Use Scented Candles, Flowers And Other Ideas To Keep Your Hotel “Homey.” Cooperate with your wife’s desire to create a “tiny home,” everywhere she goes.

5. Do Not Force Your Wife To Attend Every Crusade Service To Prove Her Support And Spirituality. Many preachers do not realize the “drain” it is on some women to be in strange surroundings, with “new” people.

6. Never Criticize Your Wife Publicly.

7. Invest In “Listening Time” To Your Wife As You Travel. Let her feel comfortable in disagreeing with your viewpoints.

8. Discern The Dreams And Goals of Your Wife. Respect them. Help her make a contribution in the attainment of them. Respect, appreciate and grow with the individuality and uniqueness God has placed within your companion.

9. It Is Important That You Recognize The Difference Between Your Needs And Your Wife’s Needs...What Makes Her Happy, Productive And In High Spirits.

5 Methods of Travel

1. Automobile Travel.

I started full-time evangelism February 9, 1966. When I left Bible college on February 7th, I was nineteen years old. A “promised” scholarship had fallen through. I simply did not have the money to continue a fourth semester in Bible college. They insisted that I move out of the dormitory within two weeks. So, I did.

My exit from Bible college was not exactly a planned one. I had a 1953 Chevrolet. The door latch was stripped, and sometimes I had to hold the door shut for four hours en route to my crusades! The back of my driver’s seat would sometimes topple into the back seat, leaving me sitting on the edge of the seat holding onto

the steering wheel!

I was not exactly prosperous. In fact, one entire month, not week, my income was \$35. Another month, it was \$90. If I remember correctly, my first year's income in full-time evangelism was approximately \$2,300. Crusade invitations were scarce.

Let me say again, while keeping your expenses as low as possible, it is important that you own a good car. The worry, embarrassment and the constant time wasted in repairing an "old clunker" is simply not worth it; especially when your car is your only means of transportation to your crusades.

I have pulled an Airstream travel trailer, utility trailers and motor homes. In short, I have done just about everything any evangelist has ever done in traveling by automobile. Believe me, you will need the best car available on the road.

Young ministers often ask me if I thought it "improved your financial support" to drive a luxurious car such as a Cadillac or Lincoln. Absolutely. Do not let anyone kid you about it. I will never forget when I bought my first Cadillac. My mother who had been a pioneer pastor's wife for many years was quite concerned. "Oh, son, I am afraid people will stop supporting you if they see you drive that nice Cadillac." The opposite happened. I do not really understand why "success breeds success," but it is true. It is actually Scriptural, too.

When Job appeared poor, nobody gave him anything, but after God had doubled his blessing, everybody wanted to be a part of his life again! "Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before,

and did eat bread with him in his house...every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold,” (Job 42:11). Do not become angry because I say this, but it is true. You will attract blessing in the same measure that you respect it.

While some may inspire “giving” to their ministry through an impoverished and sacrificial presentation, the majority of people want to invest in what they respect...a ministry they believe is going to succeed. What do I suggest? A good car...one which you will enjoy.

Some pastors feel “guilty” about driving a nice car when some of their people cannot. I feel the opposite. I feel if my friends and partners observe the blessings of God upon my life, it will help inspire them to use their own faith for their own needs. Yes, there may be exceptions to this rule, but this is my personal opinion. Be thankful for God’s blessings, and never apologize for using good tools in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

2. Traveling By Motor Coach.

Many, many years ago, I traveled for a few weeks with a young quartet group on a bus. I hated it. It was constantly breaking down: too hot in the summer, too cold in the winter, and quite frankly it was nothing but a nuisance.

To me it is too slow, too cumbersome for the average evangelist who stays a week or more wherever he preaches.

It might be ideal for singing ministries with one night concerts, but I do not suggest it for the “two week evangelist.”

3. Travel Trailers.

I bought a beautiful Airstream travel trailer many years ago, and loved it for about five or six years. Pulling it up mountains and across deserts became very destructive to my automobile, even though it was a very good and expensive car. It also cost me many days of lost crusade services because it slowed my travel down.

There are a few advantages. You can have the familiar surroundings for you, your wife and your children. You save hotel expenses en route to your crusades. This can easily exceed your monthly payment for the trailer.

You have got to follow your own taste in this. There are disadvantages and advantages to all kinds of travel. I will say that the majority of churches you preach in are happy to assist you in situating your trailer in a park. (Get the best park available...always.) I strongly suggest that one of your crusade offerings each week be designated publicly toward the monthly payment. Do not be shy in discussing this with pastors. They usually want to know how they can help you in this area.

4. Motor Homes.

I bought a very expensive, beautiful motor home and traveled for some time with it. The disadvantage is that there is not a lot of space to load up P.A. systems, books and tapes, and enjoy living space at the same time. (However, churches will usually loan you a car upon arrival if you make your request known.)

I have found cold or icy weather to be extremely depressing if you travel by motor home on the evangelistic field. Locating local propane companies, freezing water and ice in your water hose, all of these things are rather inconvenient to me personally. (However, I have

a touch of laziness in me when it comes to a lot of mechanical labor. I would rather be writing a song or preaching!)

Even as I am writing this to you today, my mind feels like an encyclopedia of a hundred memories I could share. They probably would not interest you, but they sure could be persuasive in an argument to travel simply.

5. Airplane Travel.

My favorite. To me, any other type of travel is “horse and buggy” days. A young man asked me recently why I did not “drive” to crusades. I explained that I could be in California in two-and-a-half hours, or drive two-and-a-half days. To me, time is money: Besides that, hotels, en route to California, could cost you almost as much as your airfare!

This is my ideal suggestion for any evangelist who can possibly do it. Fly to your crusades. Schedule ahead of time to get a good fare in the economy section of the plane. Pastors are happy to loan you an automobile during your crusade. Ship your CDs, tapes, or books seven days ahead of time by UPS or FedEx. Most churches these days are considerate in paying the airfare for at least one person, when you suggest it. This will prevent fatigue in driving hours and a waste of time on the road.

Travel agencies provide information and booking at no charge to you. The airlines pay a small commission back to the agency for their labor. All airlines do not charge the same. I called one major airline the other day for a flight. They wanted \$350. I called another airline and they wanted \$99. It is important to double check and recheck all the

information about flight schedules, available flights and the exact costs.

I used to rush into airports at the last possible boarding time, rush my luggage through and finally get seated—exhausted, nervous and agitated. One of the secrets I have since learned is to give myself plenty of time.

Is there a difference between airlines? Most assuredly...as much as there is a difference between pastors and churches. An introverted pastor produces unfriendly people in his congregation. The leadership always passes their personality down. So, it is with airlines. My personal favorite is American. Other airlines are good, but American is really my favorite. (Since I have said this, I hope some “American” officials read this and decide to sponsor my next project!!)

6 Air Travel Tips

1. Verify The Date And Time On Your Ticket That The Agency or Airline Has Given You. Sometimes you wish to leave at 7:00 p.m. and they have misunderstood you and placed you on a 7:00 a.m. flight.

2. Mark Each Piece of Luggage With Your Full Name, Address And All Pertinent Information.

3. Always Count Your “Claim Tickets” For Your Luggage. Make sure you have one per luggage.

4. Avoid Getting On The Wrong Plane! Be sure and double check with the flight attendant upon entering the aircraft.

5. Upon Arrival, Always Match The Claim Number With Your Particular Piece of Luggage. It is very easy to confuse luggage. If one piece of

luggage has not arrived, you will instantly know which number and piece it is. Go to “Baggage Claim” and file a “Lost Baggage Report.” It will usually be returned to you shortly.

6. If Your Baggage Is Lost, Ask The Airline For A Complimentary “Overnight Kit” For The Necessities...(such as toothpaste, etc.) for the evening. This is provided at no charge.

Advantages And Disadvantages of Luxury Hotels

1. What Are The Advantages And Disadvantages of Less Expensive Accommodations? It is not always important to secure a luxurious room or pay \$100 per night. If your “sleep time” is short, get a less expensive hotel which does not have a big lobby or fancy restaurant.

One of the reasons some hotels charge so much, is not necessarily because of the luxury of the room, but the extra facilities they provide. The bigger the hotel lobby, the more expensive your room. If you do not need the lobby for meeting business friends, or to create a “vacation atmosphere” for your family, then do not waste your money.

The disadvantages of a cheaper or inexpensive room is the noise. You can sometimes hear the people in the next room. By the way if people in the next room have their TV loud, do not get cocky and think you will go over and “quiet them down a bit.” Many times people in the cheaper motels are drinking or doing drugs, without regard for others. It is very easy to start a fight which you really do not want. The answer? Call the front desk or endure it.

Also, if you pay cash for your room at check in time, get a receipt. (Believe me, one of the worst experiences of my life happened because of this!)

2. What Are The Benefits of More Expensive Lodging? There are advantages in staying in luxurious accommodations. It is a great way, time and place for your mind to relax, and get new energy and more vision to pursue your projects in your ministry. “Great ideas often grow in great climates.” I will gladly pay \$85 for a room, if it helps me complete a \$100,000 idea or project. I try to look at every expense, as to what it will reproduce and generate in me, through me or around me.

This is where I disagree with ministers who think they are saving money when they put their evangelists in a “cheap” hotel. The evangelist becomes more vulnerable to bitterness, hostility, discouragement and depression. He will not be as productive for that pastor; will not preach his best, nor minister his best, thus the congregation is who really suffers when a church tries to save money on accommodations. If you are pastoring, I urge you to check out the possibilities for accommodations in the locality of your church.

4 Tips For Establishing Relationships Between Churches And Hotels For Guest Ministers

1. Many Churches Get Good Discounts For Luxurious Suites By Establishing A Rapport And Friendship With That Hotel.

2. Go In Personally And Talk To The Manager. Tell him you have out-of-town guests continuously.

3. Ask If He Can Cooperate With Your “Limited Budget” For Your Growing Church.

4. Assure Him That You Will Bring Your Future Business To Him, If He Will Be Flexible, At A Half-Price Rate, or Whatever He Can Provide. Many of them will be glad to work with you on this.

8 Tips About Luggage And Packing

1. Do Not Buy Low-Quality Luggage. Buy the best that you can afford. It is wise to also have protective vinyl, clear, plastic covers over your luggage.

2. Make Sure Every Piece Is Always Labeled Properly, With Full Name And Address.

3. Think Before Packing. I wish I had a dollar for every bottle of shampoo or lotion that has spilled out all over my clothes. Wrap them in plastic bags, etc. Use the plastic bags which come from the cleaners to place between your suits, to prevent wrinkles.

4. Protect Your Shoes With Shoe Bags. (You can spend a small fortune over the years, in ripped and torn shoes.)

5. Establish A “Basic Travel List” For Yourself: toothpaste, shaving cream, razor, hair conditioner, comb, brush, tie tacs, collar stays, cuff links, appropriate ties, underwear, socks, appropriate shirts with appropriate suits, ear swabs, hand lotion, shoe polish and brush, shoe trees, makeup, jewelry, jump rope, current reading material, vitamins, instant coffee, cocoa, or iced tea mixes for your room to use at the hotels. Also for your list: jogging outfit, weighing scales, tape measure, body lotion, hair spray, house robe, hair

dryer and hair net, belts. Do not trust your memory.

6. Get A Good Briefcase...One you can be proud of. Invest in it. Avoid the vinyl or plastic. You can get ridiculous in purchasing expensive briefcases, but they last. I have *never regretted* the purchase of *high quality* items. I have *always regretted* buying something *cheap* and flimsy.

7. Carry At Least One Suit With You On The Plane.

8. Always Keep Information Such As: Airline Tickets, Address Book, Etc., In The Same Place Every Trip. Develop the habit of placing certain items in the same area of your briefcase.

I urge you to establish and create a travel checklist and review this list every time you pack. I have traveled 15,000 miles a month for a long time...and I still forget things. So, when you get ready to leave your hotel room, always check every drawer and every single space in that room for your belongings. (I have left things all over the world—*relying on my memory!*)

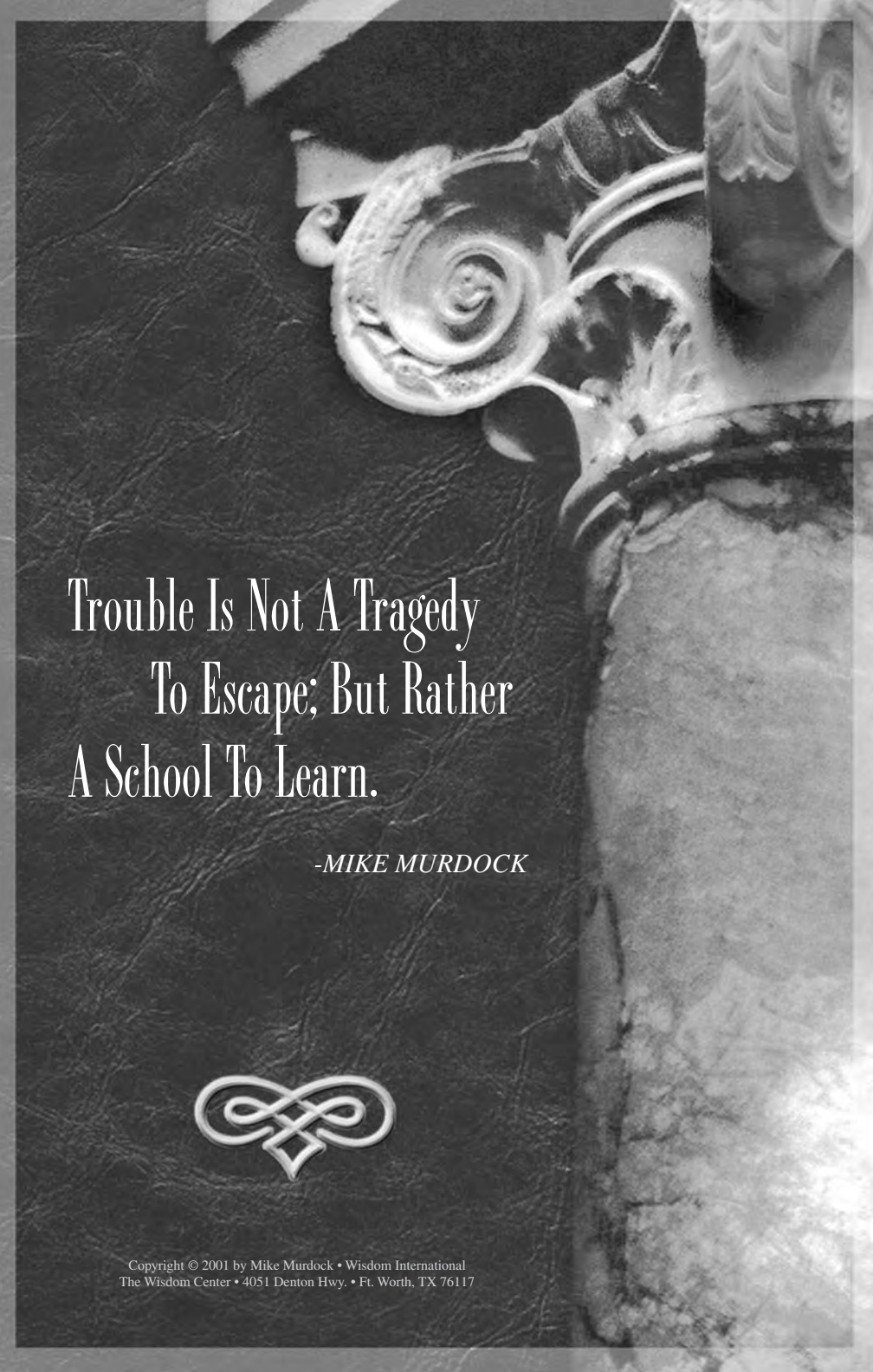
RECOMMENDED INVESTMENTS:

Dream Seeds (Book/B-11/106 pg/\$9)

The Law of Recognition (Book/B-114/248 pg/\$15)

How To Stay Motivated To Achieve Your Dream (CDS/CD-14/\$30)

The Double Diamond Principle In Dreams, Decisions and Destiny
(CDS/CD-19/\$30)



Trouble Is Not A Tragedy
To Escape; But Rather
A School To Learn.

-MIKE MURDOCK



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TROUBLE

My father says, "If sin is not your problem, you do not have a problem."

The Bible says the world is full of trouble. Great men have experienced trouble. "Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward," (Job 5:7). Solomon said, "Therefore I hated life." Elijah, the great prophet wanted to die. Jonah begged for God to kill him. Referring to men around him, Micah said, "The best of them is as a brier." (See Micah 7:4.)

We all understand trouble. The Bible says in days of prosperity, be happy, be thankful; but in days of adversity, *consider*. (See Ecclesiastes 7:14.) *Stop. Evaluate. Interrogate* your environment. *Analyze* your dilemma. It is important that you *study the disappointment* that you have entered. You do not *bond* with it. You do not make it your destination. It is not your lifestyle. When trouble comes...if it is physical trouble, if it is financial setback, if it is pain from someone who has lied about you, if there is bitterness in your heart...you want to evaluate, interrogate that environment. Extract the information you will need for your future.

5 Facts About Trouble

1. Trouble Is Not A Tragedy To Escape, But Rather, A School To Learn. When pain comes, you

do not want something to disguise or camouflage your pain. You want to find the source of your pain and remove it. God discerns and feels our time of trouble. “I will be glad and rejoice in Thy mercy: for Thou hast considered my trouble; Thou hast known my soul in adversities,” (Psalm 31:7). Trouble is for a season; it is not permanent.

“For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock,” (Psalm 27:5).

2. We Know That All Trouble Has A Reason, A Cause...A Source. “The curse causeless shall not come,” (Proverbs 26:2). Sin *always* causes trouble. “And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it,” (Joshua 6:18).

We find that when Achan disobeyed a Divine instruction. Disobedience is a magnet for turbulence...for trouble. It is very important to understand that disobedience causes trouble with others. Those on the run from God stir up trouble in their environment. When Jonah was thrown overboard, the storm ceased for the sailors. (See Jonah 1.) I have a Wisdom Key that says, *When Wrong People Leave Your Life, Wrong Things Stop Happening*.

3. The Bible Says That The Just Shall Come Out of Trouble. So believers can expect an exit from a season of turbulence and chaos in their life. “But the just shall come out of trouble,” (Proverbs 12:13).

Your reaction to trouble determines its longevity and its impact on your life. *Your reactions control how*

deeply satan affects your life.

“In the day of my trouble I will call upon Thee: for Thou wilt answer me,” (Psalm 86:7).

“But when they in their trouble did turn unto the Lord God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found of them,” (2 Chronicles 15:4).

4. One of The Blessings of Trouble Is That It Makes You Re-evaluate Your Circumstances...Re-examine Your Life. Several years ago, I heard some things were going on in my office...a little stirring. I called my CPA's and I said, “I want to see some details here. I want to see some facts.” They laughed my request off. Two weeks later, three phone calls later, they *never* responded to my request.

I called an outside firm and said, “I want you to come audit our books.” I said, “I am traveling. I am going around the world. I am preaching the gospel, praying hours and studying The Word of God every day. I have got a staff...I have got a team. I have got CPA's. I have got attorneys. However, I cannot watch what everybody does. Would you come in?”

It cost me over \$100,000 to audit my books and make sure that every “I” was dotted and every “T” was crossed. Accuracy desperately matters to me because that is part of credibility. If I were a sinner, I would *still* want things right. They found some things that were done wrong...listed wrong on an income tax statement. I said, “Make it right. *Make it right.*”

5. Trouble Causes Good People To Come Into Your Life. When David got into trouble with Saul, it linked him with Jonathan. Remember Wisdom Key #124: *Bad Times Bring Good People Together.*

“Mike, should I fight back when I get in trouble in

situations?” I think you should fight back, but not with the weapons of the world. The world can use false accusation. I remember talking to Benny Hinn one time when a derogatory article in a newspaper article had been released about him; they had left one sentence out that would have explained everything. He explained to me, “Mike, that’s their way. When they want to destroy your ministry...destroy your credibility, they will present certain facts that you cannot deny. They omit other important facts though; you cannot sue them for not using all of the facts.” For instance, there are two Scriptures in the Bible and both of them are biblical. One of them says, “Judas went and hanged himself,” (see Matthew 27:5.) Another Scripture says, “Go and do thou likewise,” (see Luke 10:37.) If you put those two Scriptures together it is a misrepresentation of truth.

I remember being devastated emotionally; I was in such pain. I watched as they blasted my name on the front page of a major newspaper. I sat there reading it. “Well, he says this.” Well, that is true. I did say that. Yeah, I did say that, but it does not go here. It goes over here instead. They want to interview me, but they refuse to print my answers with their questions, so I do not feel like they *qualify* for a conversation really. My lawyers called me and said, “There are 36 false statements in the first page alone. Do you want to sue them?” I said, “My Lord, no! If God cannot protect my life, I have no life anyway.” Billy Graham has said, “My friends don’t require my explanation, and my enemies wouldn’t believe it anyway.”

Learn from your trouble the first time...so you won’t have to experience it again.

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TRUST



You Will Have To Trust Somebody.

It is true that you cannot trust *everyone*. You certainly cannot trust everyone every day of your life. When God determines to bless you, He will place someone close to you with an instruction, an encouragement, or a warning that will greatly influence your life. Your ability to trust their word from God for you can be the difference between remarkable success and total failure. Remember Wisdom Key #64: *Your Unwillingness To Trust The Right Person Will Create More Losses Than Your Mistake of Trusting The Wrong Person.*

The Person You Are Trusting Is Deciding Your Future.

Let me explain. God uses the chain of authority continually in your life. That is why the Apostle Paul encouraged children to obey their parents, employees to honor their bosses, and Christians to honor the man of God in their lives.

One of the most powerful principles, like a nugget of gold, hidden in The Word of God is “Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper,” (2 Chronicles 20:20).

Doubt is costly. Skepticism creates the greatest losses on earth. *Unbelief Creates Disasters As Quickly As Faith Produces Miracles.* Millions of sinners have

forfeited an incredible life in Christ because they refused to trust in the words of a man of God. To many, the preaching of the Gospel is foolishness. “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe,” (1 Corinthians 1:18, 21).

4 Facts To Consider About Trust

1. God Often Packages His Gold In Burlap Bags. You see, the man that God chooses to use may not be intellectual, articulate or skilled. He may be naïve, uneducated and even uncouth. John the Baptist was certainly not pleasing in appearance by modern standards. Those who embraced his word from God though, were ushered into new levels of power and changed *forever*.

The Apostle Paul did not impress everyone. He wrote to the church at Corinth, “And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of Wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s Wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the Wisdom of men, but in the power of God,” (1 Corinthians 2:1, 3-5).

2. Your Financial Breakthrough May Depend On Your Willingness To Believe A Man of God. Your financial provision may require total obedience to an instruction from a man of God. It happened to the widow of Zarephath. (See 1 Kings 17.) She was *emaciated* and *broken*. Her son was *starving*.

She was down to her last meal. Elijah, the prophet, knocked on the door of her home with a bold and almost incredulous instruction. The instruction? Give him a meal before even her son ate.

You see, the instruction of a man of God will rarely be logical. You can do the logical thing without a man of God in your life. *You will rarely do an illogical act unless a man of God stirs your faith.* Somewhere, at some time, you will need a man of God to move you from the pit of logic to the palace of faith. *Elijah did it.* “And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth,” (1 Kings 17:13-14).

Your Reaction To A Man of God Determines God's Reaction To You.

This is so important: When a man of God gives you an instruction, there is a judgment or a reward that your obedience *or disobedience* will produce.

He is not giving an instruction to you to demonstrate His authority.

He is not giving you an instruction to finance his own life.

His instruction is an *exit* from your present crisis.

His instruction is an *entry* to a miracle Harvest.

Your obedience will determine your own reward.

The widow *trusted*. The Golden Key to success is always obedience to an instruction from God. “And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the

barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which He spake by Elijah,” (1 Kings 17:15-16).

Read First Kings, chapter seventeen carefully. You will not find a single reference proving the widow recognized or heard the voice of God *directly*. The prophet heard *God*. She heard *the prophet*.

God spoke to the prophet.

The prophet spoke to the widow.

That sequence is honored by God.

3. When Man Refuses To Trust And Accept An Instruction Through Someone God Sends, He Loses Every Promise And Reward God Had Intended. When God wants to bless you, He will talk to a man of God about your life. When God wants to stop judgment, He usually sends a man of God with a warning. He did it to Nineveh. “Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me,” (Jonah 1:1-2).

Now Jonah was disobedient. His experience in “Whale University” is known around the world. He was swallowed up by a fish, and his own disobedience was costly. When he arrived in Nineveh, he was a *persuaded* man.

Persuaded men persuade.

Jonah cried in the streets of Nineveh, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown,” (Jonah 3:4).

Somehow, the credibility and truth of his message was felt and believed. The people were repentant. “So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For word came unto the king

of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from His fierce anger, that we perish not?" (Jonah 3:5-9).

Think about this: The king wept and cried. The people were instructed to stop feeding their animals and flocks. The animals themselves were forced to fast. The senators and government leaders went without food.

4. Something Supernatural Happens When You Decide To Trust A Man of God. What was their reward for trusting The Word of a man of God? "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that He had said that He would do unto them; and He did it not," (Jonah 3:10).

I had a very unusual experience that changed my life. Each year I host a World Wisdom Conference. It happened years ago during a service at my World Wisdom Conference. One of my friends, a visiting evangelist, came to me saying, "I feel that God spoke to me to receive an offering for your ministry today."

"Well, I will let you know whatever God impresses me to do," I replied. I appreciated what he said. I really felt that I was able to hear from God as much as anyone

else present. I felt no leading whatsoever that an offering was to be received at that time.

A few minutes later, another evangelist handed me a note. It reiterated that the other brother felt impressed to receive an offering. They both felt it was God and wanted me to hand him the microphone. *I was agitated.*

I had a personal schedule for the time that offerings would be received. My basic attitude was, “This is *my* conference. Nobody is going to receive an offering unless I approve and know that it is the will of God. This is neither the time nor the place for an offering.” I had already received an offering that morning, and I did not want the people to feel *harassed*.

I am not a novice in the ministry. I have walked to the pulpit more than 12,000 times since I have started preaching at the age of eight years old. I spoke at my first crusade at the age of fifteen. I entered full-time evangelism at the age of nineteen. I have been in thirty-nine countries of the world. I was a little peeved that another man of God would push me in this manner.

While I was speaking and preparing to dismiss the people for lunch, this evangelist walked up to me publicly. He was weeping and crying. “Brother, could I say a word?” I was still frustrated. It bothered me deeply. I pray, fast and make every effort to hear the voice of The Holy Spirit. I was hearing nothing from God. I *felt* nothing. Somehow, I really believed in my heart that he was totally out of order.

But, *he was a man of God*. I knew that he was a man of God. His ministry was proven. His anointing was obvious. He had passed the test of time. He wore the badge of endurance. He was gentle and kind, but

very persistent. So, I handed him the microphone, very reluctantly.

As he began to speak, tears ran down his cheeks. Within moments my partners began to step out of their seats streaming to the front with \$1,000 faith promises for the ministry. They kept coming, and coming, and coming. I stood there, still feeling nothing. I could hardly believe what was happening. I cannot say that I felt joy, because I did not feel joy. I never did feel a confirmation. During the entire time that he received the offering, I never felt the winds of The Holy Spirit. The offering that day in cash and pledges was more than \$100,000.

I prayed, "Oh Lord, I thought I knew Your voice. I thought I knew when You spoke."

You see, God had spoken to another man something He had withheld from me. It concerned me deeply. I was *incensed*. I was *embarrassed*.

I felt the timing was wrong. I had my own schedule. The only reason I had finally allowed and permitted him to do what he did was because I really knew he was a man of God. The touch of God was upon him. I felt *nothing*. I saw no vision. I experienced no revelation. *I simply trusted in the man of God that my Father had decided to use that day.*

I learned that God tells others things He will not tell me. It continues to irritate me, but I learned a valuable lesson.

Remember Wisdom Key #14: *The Instruction You Follow Determines The Future You Create.*

My success will depend on my ability to recognize and trust a man of God.



God Will Only Respond
Favorably To Those
Who Perceive His Value.

-MIKE MURDOCK



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UNCOMMON CHURCH



The Church Is Not A Building.

We are the Church...the Body of Christ.

7 Qualities of An Uncommon Church

1. A “Word of God” Conscious Church. The first quality of an Uncommon Church is a Word *conscious*...a Word of God *focused* church.

Why is this so important? To me, the most important thing a pastor can do for his church is to *nurture*...to *develop* a passion for The Word of God. If he can get his people to fall in love with the 800,000 words, 1,189 chapters, he can solve every problem in their life through The Word.

Let me explain. If I can get you into His Word, I can solve your depression. Jesus said, “These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full,” (John 15:11).

If I can get you to fall in love with the Bible, I can solve all your unbelief, your doubts. Because He said, “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God,” (Romans 10:17).

If I can get you to fall in love with the Bible, I can change your income. The Psalmist tells us that a man that loves God’s Word, wealth and riches will be in his

house. "Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in His commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever," (Psalm 112:1-3).

"That is not true. I have been tithing and I am broke." Well, let us work on that a little bit. I had a couple one time come up to me and say, "That does not work. We have been tithing and we still have no money." I said, "Well, I just met you and I have known God longer than I have known you, so you are lying. One of you is lying. I said, "You are lying." I said, "Bring me all your tithe stubs from your checks. Bring them to me tonight because you may be planting in bad soil...the quality of the soil determines the future of the Seed." They kept talking. I said, "Well, will you bring me the check stubs?" I said, "How long have you been tithing?" They looked at each other and said, "Two weeks." I explained to them that everything multiplies... including Seeds of nothing.

If you sow nothing, you create a season of nothing. *A Seed of Nothing Always Creates A Season of Nothing.* This is one of the reasons that the Old Testament talks about different kinds of Seeds. There is the meal offering. There is the wave offering. You have the dove and the turtledove, the pigeons, the lambs. There are different kinds of offerings. We sow up for wealth (see Isaiah 58) and we sow down for health (see Psalm 41.) Every Seed contains a different future according to Scripture.

Now, if I can get you into The Word of God, I can change *everything in your life*. The Wisdom of God,

which is The Word of God, will change your relationships. The Word of God makes you discerning of the hidden agendas of others. One of the goals, one of the purposes of Wisdom, is so that you can discern the spirit of a scorner in your life...the spirit of a fool.

To me that is the greatest quality of a church...do they love The Word of God?

2. An Obedient Church. One of the things Jesus told us to do is to go into all the world and preach the gospel.

That is why in India, we built the three story dormitory for young preachers...the young Timothy's of India. That is why we underwrite *The Wisdom For Asia Bible College* every month and pay their teachers. That is why we purchased the piece of land next to the Bible school. There are rubber plants on the land next to the Bible school and the profits from the rubber plants will pay the teachers for many years to come.

Evangelism is obedience. (See Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15; Galatians 1:15-16.)

3. A Restoration Healing Church. Restoration healing is the third quality of an Uncommon Church.

The church is not a museum for perfect people. The local church is a *hospital* for those who need the healing of Jesus. I want people who have made the worse mistakes known to man to walk in to The Wisdom Center, be comfortable and feel like they are where they need to be.

I want an obedient church to hear His voice: "God, I will do what You want me to do. I will say what You want me to say. I will be what You want me to be...no matter what the cost." One time Oral Roberts said to

me, “Everybody is sick somewhere.” There are three things Jesus did. Jesus went about all Galilee *teaching* in their synagogues, *preaching* the gospel of the kingdom and *healing* all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. Jesus’ ministry was teaching, preaching and healing. *He still desires to do the same...through the Church.*

4. A Praying Church. I believe you talk to God. Do not try to *think* a prayer. You have to speak it. Thinking is not praying. Do not think a prayer...because you think about your problems...you are not praying about them. *You must speak.* You must speak *in faith* because *He only reacts to faith.*

“Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands,” (Acts 12:5-7).

Here is what is phenomenal to me about this Scripture in Acts. Peter was a man of God. Remember his shadow had healed people, but he could not get out of jail until *somebody else* was praying. It is important that you *reach out* for other intercessors. *Get other people involved in your problem.* Do not try to get through this thing by yourself. Do not try to survive something you are going through alone. Abraham interceded for Lot. Do not minimize the role of intercession.

Oral Roberts has been a major mentor in my life. After a visit at the City of Faith, I was getting ready to go to the airport and Richard Roberts, now the president of Oral Roberts University, was with me. Just as we got to the elevator, a woman rushed up to him and said, "Oh Richard, oh, Richard, come pray. You have got to come pray for my husband down here." My thoughts were, "You have got other people to pray. We are about to go to the airport. We have got plans. Just have somebody else pray. Pray for him yourself." Suddenly, Richard said, "Just wait for me." *Nothing else mattered.* He dropped everything and rushed down there. I mean it was like I had no schedule... *nothing mattered but that.*

When he came back, I said, "That is really nice of you to do that." I said, "Man, with all of your plans you just dropped everything." He said, "Well, that is what we are all about." He said, "Do you know the more people you get praying for something, the more power works against the enemies that are coming against your life."

I am sitting there thinking, "Wait, wait, wait. I am going to work with this Scripture, 'if you have faith like a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain be cast into the sea.' Wait, wait, just me and God are a majority." Suddenly, he is talking about the power of involving others in intercession. He said, "Mike, this thing is too big for daddy and me and our faith. We have got to have the faith of other people involved. This is too big for our faith." I had never even thought of something like that. What do you mean this thing is too big? God said if you are sick, call for the elders of the church. *Call for people. Reach out* for intercessors.

If one is fallen, another will pick him up. Satan never showed up in the garden before Eve joined Adam...*because two are better than one. Two can multiply.*

I would urge you to develop an intercessor circle. You do not have to tell everyone your problem, but get other people using their faith for you. *Do not try to handle any thing alone.* That is why we pray for one another. This is why we stand with one another.

5. A Controversial Church. An Uncommon Church will always be controversial. *If satan enjoys you, you are doing something wrong.* If demons beg to attend our church, we have made some mistakes. The controversy may be over healing. The controversy may be over speaking in tongues. The controversy may be over finances and prosperity.

Do not be intimidated by the money talk of the world. We have a Jehovah-Jireh who wants us blessed. He said if you being evil know how to give good gifts to your children how much more does your Heavenly Father know how to give good gifts to those that love Him. (See Matthew 7:11.) Enjoy the blessing message. Enjoy that we have a Jehovah-Jireh that wants to bless us...not just in money, but in relationships, in open doors, in opportunities and in health.

If you are going through a bad time right now and you have lost your job or your business cannot take off and it seems like you just cannot make it. I have a Wisdom Key for you, *Don't Change Your Theology To Accommodate A Tragedy.*

“Well, Mike, I have lost my job, lost my money and now I do not have any friends.” *A friend never leaves you.* If you are going through a bad time and people

have walked out on you, *thank God*. God purged your life. Do you know what? Bathrooms are as valuable as kitchens. Subtraction is as necessary as addition. *When God Wants To Bless You, He Brings A Person Into Your Life. When God Wants To Protect You, He Removes A Person From Your Life.* Every attack, every battle is a purging to get rid of the clutter that you have allowed to accumulate in your life.

6. A Relationship Church. The sixth quality of an Uncommon Church...they are a love relationship church.

This is why at The Wisdom Center, we have meals together and time together. I do not want a place where we just gather and look at one another, hear a sermon and walk out. The Bible said that those that feared the Lord, spake often to each other. This is why after every Sunday morning service, we go straight back to the Hospitality Suite to become acquainted with first time visitors. We *want* to know about you. We *want* to know what you do for a living...where you work.

I receive business cards from people I meet at churches where I am speaking. I carry their business cards because, God blesses everything I touch. *I believe that.*

An Uncommon Church is a *relationship* church. Get to know one another. Talk to one another. *Build relationships.* It does not mean you have to give everybody your address and say, "Come to supper tomorrow night." Make an effort though, to get to know one another. I believe in a relationship church. I never had what God is building right now in my life. I have never had such a love for a people. I cannot sleep on Saturday nights in anticipation of Sunday services at

The Wisdom Center. I am constantly thinking about how can I create a better environment. What can we do? I get excited about teaching. I think about how incredible it is to teach people how to succeed.

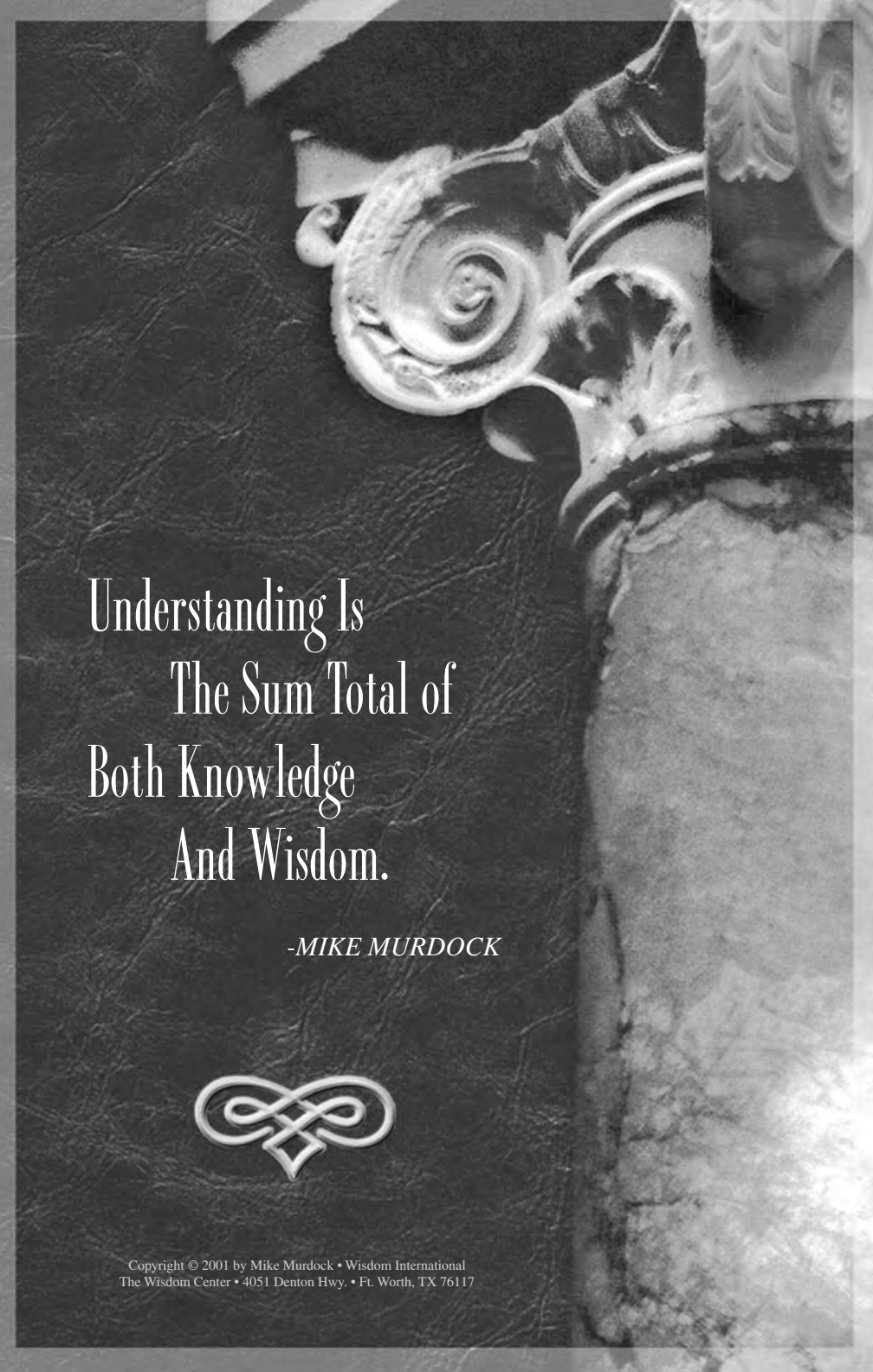
7. A Seed-Sowing Church. An Uncommon Church is a Seed-Sowing Church. Tithe to your Church. Your church is not the only place God blesses your Seed though. There are other ministries God blesses. You can sow to various ministries. Sow everywhere you see good ministry. Seed does not all belong in your own church.

There are too many different kinds of people to bless. There are too many kinds of ministries, too. There are many kinds of anointings to bless. I have written checks to several different ministries. *Why?* When I see good soil, I want to sow in that soil. While I am waiting for Seed number three to come up, two can be coming up. While I am waiting for Seed number five, four can be coming up. I believe in sowing wherever you see good soil. Sow wherever you get blessed. Never let anyone...not even the government...never let *anyone* tell you where to sow. *You sow where God directs you to sow.*

Sometime ago, a lady came up to me and said, "I've got my tithe." I said, "Well that is wonderful." She said, "No, I have another home church." I said, "You bring your tithe back to your home church. That is the man of God who is feeding you. That is the man of God that is strengthening you." I said, "He is the one that goes to see you in the hospital. He is the one that prays over your life." It is important for you to sow as The Holy Spirit directs you and guides you.

I want a Seed-sowing church. A lot of us sow Seed

that nobody ever knows about. Some of us sow Seed that we do not even document, and it is coming up all around us every day. It is coming up. I see the blessings of God.



Understanding Is
The Sum Total of
Both Knowledge
And Wisdom.

-MIKE MURDOCK



92

UNDERSTANDING



Understanding Is God's Golden Key To Your Success.

“Get Wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of My mouth,” (Proverbs 4:5).

By using the Golden Key to Understanding, we can unlock the doors of opportunity in every part of our life, even in our finances, and walk through them confidently to gain success.

When I was growing up, all the kids in the neighborhood would gather around to talk. One of our favorite topics was the “one-wish game.” Someone would say, “If you could have anything in the whole world, what one thing would you wish for?”

The girls usually wanted a date with some popular guy at school. The fellow down the block wished for a motorcycle. A teenager who was having problems at home might say he wished he had no parents! One girl wished she had \$1,000 to spend on new clothes.

Everyone in the group always had one or two things to wish for. Every time we played the game there was always something each youngster either wanted to have or wished to avoid. Of course, there was no one listening to our wishes who had the power to grant them. One day a new boy in our neighborhood

stunned us all by his statement of his one wish, “I wish for one thing—the *wishing ability* that anything I wish for would come true.” Naturally, for such clever thinking he became our leading local genius!

There is a story in the Bible, though, of a man who was actually guaranteed that he would be given anything he asked for: “...the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee,” (1 Kings 3:5).

What a dramatic situation! It was as if God had led Solomon to the front of a great hotel and said, “Choose any room you want, and you can have it. One room has *riches* inside. One room has *long life*. One room has *power and authority*. Each room contains something desirable—something you would like to have. Just tell Me which room you want most and I will give you the key to it.”

Solomon thought about God’s offer for a moment. Then he said quietly, “Give me the key to the room which contains Wisdom and Understanding.”

God smiled, and opened up the ring of keys in His hand. He took off a golden key and handed it to Solomon. “You have made a wise choice,” He said.

Solomon asked, “Why is this key different from all the rest?”

“Because this is the *Master Key*, it will unlock *all the rooms* in the entire building!”

Yes, *understanding is God’s Golden Key to your success. Understanding!* At first it sounds like nothing. It seems trite and meaningless. But *Understanding* is the *Master Key* that opens the doors of opportunity to you and gives you free access to every resource. *Understanding* unlocks the doors to all your goals,

ambitions and desires. *Understanding* will smash the locks on your prison of prejudices, fears and unhappiness!

Understanding Is The Sum Total of Both Knowledge And Wisdom. *It is the ability to interpret life as God sees it—the ability to see the total picture that God sees of a person or a situation.* Understanding is the ability:

To *see* through His eyes,
To *hear* through His ears,
To *feel* as with His heart,
To *walk* in His steps,
To *think* with His mind.

No marriage would ever be destroyed by divorce if the husband saw his wife *through the eyes of God*, and the wife could see her husband *as God sees him*.

A man would be able to become wealthy almost overnight if he knew the hearts of people and all the details of business propositions as God knows them.

Parents and children would have no crushing conflicts if they dealt with each other from the standpoint of understanding. How many teenagers look at their parents and wish they could go pack their bags and leave home because nobody understands them? While they are thinking that, the parents' hearts are just aching: "Oh honey, if you could just see how we love you. If you could just know how we think and feel about you!"

The Golden Key of Understanding makes it possible for parents and children to communicate—to hear what the other is saying *with their heart*. Understanding will open the door to harmony and happiness in the home.

Understanding is also seeing God's purpose in some of life's more unpleasant events. The Bible tells how Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers. As a slave, he tried to do what was right and was the target of vicious lies as a result. He ended up in a dungeon. Through all this pain and persecution, Joseph maintained his faith in God. How? By being aware of God's hand at work in his behalf. Because he was in the dungeon *at the right time*, he was given the *opportunity to minister* by interpreting Pharaoh's troubling dreams. *This catapulted him to power.* In a short time he had become Pharaoh's chief officer of the entire land. With God's direction he was able to prepare for a time of great famine in the land.

When the famine came, Joseph was able to save an entire nation. Plus, he was in a position to save the lives of his own family—including the brothers who had betrayed him. Understanding helped him to see *God's purpose* in his problems and make him successful.

When you ask God for the Golden Key of Understanding, He says to you: "I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go," (Isaiah 48: 17).

\$124,000 Profit In 30 Days!

A friend of mine was driving by a piece of property and suddenly he felt a strong impression that he should buy it. The selling price was \$75,000, and my friend did not have that kind of money. He could not see why he should buy such an expensive piece of ground that he didn't even need. But the voice of God kept speaking to him. *God knew something he did not know and wanted*

to share it with him.

My friend felt this leading of the Lord so strongly that he began scraping together what money he could. He took all of his savings out of the bank. He sold some items. He took all the cash he could get together and made a down payment on that piece of property.

Thirty days later he was on that lot, burning some trash and generally cleaning up a bit. A car drove up and a lady got out, walked over and asked if he was the owner. Then she wanted to know if the property was for sale.

When my friend assured her he was the owner, she said, “My husband is a doctor. He has been wanting to buy this land for four years. We’re prepared to offer you \$199,000 for this property.”

In 30 days time, my friend was offered a \$124,000 profit! He was able to achieve this remarkable success—not in his own Wisdom, but through the Divine Understanding of God—*the ability to see the picture of that property as God saw it. His obedience created the miracle.*

What God did for this man, He will do for you.

God is no respecter of persons. His promises are for everybody.

He has a Golden Key of Understanding waiting for you.

Where Does Understanding Come From?

“My son, if thou wilt receive My words, and hide My commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto Wisdom, and apply thine heart to un-

derstanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth Wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding,” (Proverbs 2:1-6).

All Understanding comes from God. It is a gift *only God can give*. That is why Solomon had to ask for Understanding instead of trying to rely upon himself. God bestows Understanding upon us through His Word: “For the Lord giveth Wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding,” (Proverbs 2:6). The Psalmist said of God, “Through Thy precepts I get understanding,” (Psalm 119:104).

So, The Word of God opens up Understanding to us. The entire Bible was written so that you and I would have Understanding—that we would be able to interpret life as God does. Paul, one of the prolific writers of the New Testament, said: “Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things,” (2 Timothy 2:7).

By carefully reading The Word of God, we learn to use the Golden Key of Understanding in unlocking the Doors of Success. As we immerse ourselves in the Bible, God speaks to us from His Word and says, “This is what I *think*. This is what I *know*. This is what I *see*. This is what I *hear*.”

God has breathed His Divine knowledge into The Word. *Between the covers of your Bible are the treasures you need to be truly successful.* You will find the answer to financial troubles, how to cure worry, even how to solve friendship problems. The Word will direct you in

your *family* relationships—the chain of authority in the home, including the position of the husband, the wife, and the children.

The Bible contains a cure for nervousness and depression. The Word is even the purging tool for removing immorality from our minds and lives: “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy Word,” (Psalm 119:9).

So, *the Bible is the success book of the world!* It is the source of God’s Golden Key for Success: “The entrance of Thy Words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple,” (Psalm 119:130).

An interesting note is that one of the important functions of The Holy Spirit is to interpret The Word of God to believers and produce understanding. This means when we come to a passage of Scripture that is not clear to us, The Holy Spirit enlightens our minds and makes every detail sharp and meaningful: “Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth,” (John 16:13).

It was this Spirit that rested upon Jesus as Isaiah prophesied: “And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of Wisdom and understanding,” (Isaiah 11:2).

But we must desire and ask for this Wisdom. If we will do that, God will give it to us liberally according to James 1:5, “If any of you lack Wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

What You Pursue, You Will Possess.



The Proof of A Victorious Life Is...Joy.

-MIKE MURDOCK



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VICTORY



You Decide Your Victories.

6 Keys To A Victorious Life

1. God-Consciousness. Continuously center your thoughts on God and Scriptural truth. This will crowd out wrong thinking, empower you during temptation and develop Wisdom for important decisions.

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For Thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us,” (Romans 8:31-37).

2. Your Personal Prayer Life. Set up a *place* and a daily *time* for visiting with The Holy Spirit. Keep a list of names of those you pray for. Don’t stay in an

“asking posture”—learn to praise and thank Him for past answers!

3. Your Daily Bible Reading Habit. Establish a *place, time* and *system*. Early morning is usually the best time because you have placed *mind-pictures* of truth into your spirit for the rest of the day. *Mark* your Bible. Take notes. Do not miss a single day.

4. Godly Friendships. “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed,” (Proverbs 13:20). Be *selective*. Friends will *add to* or *take away* from your life.

5. A Teachable Spirit. Several years ago a young lady approached me about a questionable activity in her life. She accepted my counsel. Today, she is a victorious and successful Christian: “A wise man will *hear*,” (Proverbs 1:5). Through instruction and even criticism, we grow in grace and humility.

6. A Winner’s Mentality. Stop thinking about obstacles and start thinking about your *opportunities*. Talk *positive* words. Think good things about yourself and others. Stop complaining! Project enthusiasm! Avoid negative and depressing conversations.

Dominate your turf!

Be aggressively happy!

Recently, I was in a garden of beautiful flowers. While admiring their beauty, I noticed the gardener pulling up weeds that had grown up around them. As weeds choke out the life of a beautiful flower, there are things that we must remove in order to grow. To guarantee maturity and a winning life, you must eliminate the weeds.

Every Victory Is Worth The Price.

Never forget it.

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VOLUNTEERS



The Proof of Love Is The Desire To Give.

Volunteers are special gifts from the Lord. Volunteering is an excellent way to get others involved in your ministry. God has given my Ministry some loyal and diligent volunteers. Still, I must admit there are disadvantages and advantages.

Advantages of Volunteers

- 1. They Are Inexpensive Because They Are Donating Their Labor And Time.**
- 2. You Can Get Much Accomplished Without Much Cost Involved.**

Disadvantages of Volunteers

- 1. They Can Only Work When Their Schedule Permits.**
- 2. They May Lack A Sense of Loyalty And Unity To Protect Information Regarding The Ministry.**

- 3. They Require More Supervision.**

Many ministries have found volunteers to be a beautiful blessing if you will take the time to:

- ▶ *Train* them.
- ▶ *Love* them.

► *Encourage* them.

► *Inspire* them.

If I had it to do over again, I would do anything I could possibly do to get somebody to work with me on a part-time, volunteer basis. However, almost every preacher needs a secretary to help him multiply his productivity.

Rex Humbard told me one time that one of the biggest regrets of his Ministry was that he did not have a full-time researcher to cut out articles and get statistics for him. He wasted hundreds of hours doing what someone else could have done. Nobody else could have done his praying; nobody else could do his preaching; nobody else could do his planning, but that was something that they could do. His time was robbed. *Precious time* was robbed from him doing what someone else could do.

If I had it to do over again, I would create a schedule for someone to assist me in my basic office responsibilities. It is good when a wife can help and assist. However, this usually results in conflict between the preacher and his wife over “the method” of doing things.

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ALWAYS PAY YOUR VOWS

Vows Are Not Frivolous Things To God.

Vows to God.

Vows to family.

Vows to employees.

Vows to yourself.

God is not playful, frivolous or trivial.

God takes your promises to Him quite seriously.

“Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than thou shouldest vow and not pay,” (Ecclesiastes 5:5).

God calls promise breakers, fools. “When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for He hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed,” (Ecclesiastes 5:4). That is why it is so important not to position yourself as a fool. Fools are ultimately destroyed. He *humiliates* fools. He moves *away* from fools. He uses fools as illustrations for *destruction*.

God wants you to keep your promises. To your family. To your spouse. To the Lord Who promised you His best. It is important that you develop impeccable and unwavering integrity when you give your word in a business transaction or to your children.

God is a covenant God. He sees the vows you have made before Him and men.

Stop and re-examine your life this very moment. Have you made any financial vows to your church or

anyone else? Pay them.

Whatever it takes, pay your vows.

Paying your vows can break “the curse.” When you keep your vow, God’s very best begins to come to you. Read Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26 to see the incredible blessings that come to those who “observe and to do all His commandments,” (Deuteronomy 28:1).

After an anointed banquet one evening, an articulate and well-dressed lady approached me.

“I know God has spoken to me tonight to plant a \$1,000 Seed into your ministry. You will receive it in a few days,” she said wiping tears of joy from her eyes.

A few days later, her letter arrived. It was an apology. “After I talked to my husband, I felt that I should break my promise to you. I do not believe we can really afford to sow this special Seed at this time,” she wrote.

Tragic. You see, while she was in the presence of God and the anointing of The Holy Spirit was hovering over the congregation, the Seeds of her faith exploded within her heart. God spoke. She heard. She moved swiftly to declare her covenant with God. After she moved *away* from His presence and discussed this gigantic step of faith with an unbelieving husband, *she withdrew from the covenant* which she had entered into with God. Only time will reveal the curse such an attitude of frivolity and light-heartedness will produce in our lives!

God convicted me of a forgotten vow. I was sitting in my bed watching a religious television program. Suddenly, a famous evangelist looked into the camera and said so forcibly, “If you have made a vow to God at any time and not paid it, you have launched a parade of

tragedies. Please sit down today and *pay your vows*.”

Conviction smote my heart.

Over two years before, I had promised a missionary in Africa that I would help sponsor some students for scholarships in his Bible college. I had asked him to rush me information about it. When I did not receive the information, I did nothing. I did not telephone him or pursue a reason. I simply used it as an excuse to “escape my vow” that I had made to him.

As I felt my heart pound, I asked God to, “Please forgive me. Give me another chance. Do not withhold Your Harvest from me.” It was midnight, but I called my secretary anyway. “Whatever you do, when you arrive at the office tomorrow morning, please take the checkbook and write out a check to this Bible school in East Africa. Airmail it. I cannot live another day without the blessing of God flowing upon me. I cannot afford a curse on my life and ministry,” I explained to her.

Countless thousands lift their hands and make faith-promises, “Yes, I will plant a special Seed *each month* to help you spread the Wisdom of God.” Yet, over 50 percent will never sit down and plant that Seed that they vowed publicly to plant.

“Maybe they cannot afford to do it,” is a common explanation.

I have seen many people make this claim, yet they continue to get salary raises, new television sets, new clothes and send their children through college. Throughout all of this spending, they make the same claim: “I really cannot keep my faith-promise.”

“Would you like for me to ask God to make you as poor as you tell everybody you really are?” asked the

minister of a disgruntled parishioner one Sunday morning.

When you make a faith-promise, it is a covenant between you and God. Do not treat it lightly. Make every effort to pay it.

If you do not have enough finances to pay your vow at one time, plant *small Seeds as often as possible* and your own Harvest will increase. Then you will find it possible to complete your faith promise and vow, as He blesses you.

If you truly feel that you have made a hasty decision, then ask the Lord to give you *an extra miracle* so that you can complete your faith vow to Him in a *supernatural way*.

The man of God is not really authorized to “let you off.” This faith promise is between *you and God*, and must be settled between you and God.

Unpaid vows are a powerful reason thousands have never tasted the reward of their step of faith.

Pay your vows and *favor will flow*.

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WEAKNESSES

Every Human Contains Weaknesses.

Here Are 21 Facts You Must Recognize About Your Weaknesses

1. God Has Anticipated Every Weakness. “For He remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again,” (Psalm 78:39).

2. One Weakness Can Destroy You. Your refusal to recognize it guarantees your destruction.

3. Recognition of Your Dominant Weakness Can Prevent A Thousand Nights of Tears, Failure And Devastation. Brilliant, articulate and powerful people have permitted a tiny weakness to eat away like a small cancer. *Things that begin small can become huge.* Greed, lust, lying, prayerlessness and even gossip can grow until that weakness becomes a raging inferno.

4. Ignoring Your Dominant Weakness Schedules Your Tragedy. Your weakness is like a living person within you, a living organism. It is a force, silent and deadly, that moves your life toward destruction. If ignored, it will wreck every dream, sabotage every worthy relationship and ultimately make you a monument of disgrace on the earth.

“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light,

we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world,” (1 John 1:7-2:2).

5. Everyone Has A Weakness. “All have sinned,” (Romans 3:23). Many camouflage their weakness. But, always remember that those around you contain a weakness, too. Failure to discern theirs can destroy you as well.

6. Your Heavenly Father Is Not Afraid To Deal With Your Personal Weakness. It matters to Him. He cares. He longs to give you the strength to destroy it. “For He remembered that they were but flesh,” (Psalm 78:39). “He remembereth that we are dust,” (Psalm 103:14).

7. Your Weakness Is The Entry Point For Demonic Spirits. Satan *entered* Judas. “Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon,” (John 13:26).

“Then saith one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, which should betray Him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare

what was put therein,” (John 12:4-6).

“Then entered satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him unto them. And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money. And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray Him unto them in the absence of the multitude,” (Luke 22:3-6).

8. God Will Make Every Effort To Reveal Your Weakness To You Before It Destroys You.

“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat,” (Luke 22:31).

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who

knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them,” (Romans 1:16, 25-32).

9. Somebody Will Be Assigned By Hell To Feed And Strengthen Your Weakness. Delilah was sent by satan to destroy Samson. “And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver,” (Judges 16:4-5).

“She said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth. And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death; That he told her all his heart...And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him. But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house,” (Judges 16:15, 19-21).

10. Your Weakness Will Pursue, Embrace And Seize Any Friendship That Permits It, Feeds On It or Enjoys It. The contentious spirit in one

person can infiltrate an entire church through those who allow it to exist unrebuked, unchecked or uncorrected.

11. Your Weakness Has An Agenda, A Plan To Take Over Your Life And Sabotage It. “When lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death,” (James 1:15).

12. Your Weakness Will Bond You With Wrong People. Remember Samson and Delilah! (See Judges 16:4-20.)

13. Your Weakness Will Separate You From Right People. Adam withdrew from God in the garden after he sinned. Your weakness makes you uncomfortable in the presence of those who refuse to justify it. “And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard Thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself,” (Genesis 3:8-10).

14. Your Weakness Can Emerge At Any Time In Your Life, Including Your Closing Years. “Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth,” (Psalm 71:9).

I think it was Dr. Lester Sumrall who once said, “*What you fail to master in your early years will master you in your later years.*” It is true—what you fail to conquer in your early youth will destroy you in the closing years of your life.

15. Your Weakness Cannot Be Overcome With Humanism, Human Philosophy, Explanations or Self Will-Power. If your weakness could be

overcome by yourself, the blood of Jesus is powerless and The Holy Spirit is unnecessary. “Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you,” (Acts 1:8).

“For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord,” (Romans 7:19-25).

16. Your Weakness Does Not Necessarily Require A Personal Confession To Everybody, But Recognition of It In The Presence of God.

“The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit,” (Psalm 34:18).

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah,” (Psalm 32:1-5).

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual

fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much,” (James 5:16).

17. The Easiest Time To Destroy Your Weakness Is At Its Beginning Stages. Time weaves a steel thread that *becomes* an unbreakable chain. Thousands today hate the very cigarettes they are smoking. But, time has enslaved them.

18. God Will Permit You To Enjoy Many Victories Even While Your Weakness Is Operating Within You. He is long-suffering. He is merciful. He provides opportunity after opportunity to reach for deliverance. “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!” (Matthew 23:37).

19. Those You Love Are Waiting In The Shadows For You To Overcome And Triumph Over Your Weakness. Your victory sends a message to them. When David killed Goliath, the entire nation of Israel changed its season. Your family may be sitting in constant fear that your weakness will destroy you and them. They may be fearful that their own weakness will be exposed. But, when you become victorious, their hearts rejoice and will become strengthened because of it.

20. Your Weakness Can Only Be Overcome By The Word of God. Satan reacts to The Word of God. That is why Jesus used the weapon of The Word during His temptation. (Read Matthew 4:1-11.)

“And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to Him, he said, If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But

He answered and said, *It is written*, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God,” (Matthew 4:2-4).

21. Overcoming Your Weakness Will Bring You An Incredible Reward For Eternity. “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches,” (Revelation 3:19-22).

What is the most dominant weakness in your life that satan has consistently used to dilute your testimony, break your focus and create depression? You may hide it for a season, but time exposes all things. Address your weakness. *Become an enemy to it.* Trust The Holy Spirit to empower you.

Confession is evidence of trust.

Confession To The Holy Spirit Is Your First Step To Turning Your Worst Weakness Into Your Greatest Weapon.

RECOMMENDED INVESTMENTS:

Seeds of Wisdom on Overcoming (Book/B-17/32 pg/\$3)

How To Walk Through Fire And Not Be Burned (CDS/CD-03/\$30)

School of Wisdom, Vol. 3 - What I'd Do Differently If I Could Begin

My Life Over Again (CDS/CD-83/\$30)

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WEALTH



Decisions Decide Wealth.

Many do not really respect money and do not recognize it as a *weapon* and *tool* for good.

10 Facts About Respect For Finances

1. Whatever You Respect, You Will Attract.

What you respect will come *toward* you. What you do not respect *moves away* from you. Whether it is a miracle or a dog, what you fail to respect will become *uncomfortable* in your presence.

Respect simply means to find someone important and worthy of *protection* and *pursuit*.

Recently, I conducted an opinion poll in several of my meetings. “How many have been in a financial seminar or consulted a certified financial planner within the last three years?” It amazed me. Only three out of a hundred had ever sat down with a financial planner. “Aren’t those financial planners pretty expensive,” a tall lanky fellow asked after the seminar one night. “Well, mine cost \$200 an hour,” I replied. “Still, do you not agree that \$200 is worth spending to find out how to make your \$30,000 income multiply?”

2. Your Library Reveals The Depth of Your Respect For Money. You spent over \$300 dollars last month on your automobile payment, \$130 dollars went

to gas, and you spent at least \$800 on your apartment expenses. Now, let's look at your checkbook. Provide me a total of what you invested in books and tapes. Does it compare with your automobile payment? Probably not.

Some believe in *their car* more than they believe in *their future*. Your *reluctance* to invest money in financial books may reveal *little respect* for money. For example, if you are forty years old, you should have in your library at least forty significant books on wealth...one book a year. That is not too much to ask. Are you thirty? Then, you should have thirty significant books on building your financial worth.

3. Your Anger Toward Ministers Who Talk About Money Reveals A Lack of True Respect.

"Dr. Mike, I think preachers say too much about money," a lady ranted and raved after one seminar. "Why, last Sunday morning, my pastor talked for fifteen or twenty minutes about money before the offering. It just killed something inside me. Many of us are mad, we do not know what to do. It is really hurting our church." How tragic, unfortunate and sad!

This lady probably spent two hours a day sitting in a hot sweaty automobile, in traffic on the freeway...to make money. Then, she worked and toiled forty hours that week in a smoke infested, foul-mouthed environment...to make money. Then, she complained and cried when her boss failed to give her more money following her conversation for a raise.

Now, she is infuriated that a man of God would discuss money for fifteen minutes. *That is mind damage.*

Some will argue, "There are many things more

important for a preacher to discuss than money!”

Let’s look at this a moment. Are you angry with the dentist who *refuses* to discuss your teeth? Of course not. Yet, I could easily argue that there are many things on earth that are more important than your broken tooth.

Would you be angry with a lawyer who *refused* to take your case? Of course. Still, I could argue that there are many things much more important than your lawsuit.

Then, why do you not respect a man of God who cares enough about your financial status to help you connect with the Master Provider, your Jehovah-Jireh?

Unfortunately, secular society has more respect for money than Christianity does. Almost every article in Christian magazines dealing with money is a *warning* for pursuing it. Almost every ministry in America points to the pitfalls of materialism. Meanwhile, someone has said that forty percent of the bankruptcies involve born-again Christians. Millions cannot even pay their bills. Thousands of dreams are sabotaged and shipwrecked on the rocks of bankruptcy and poverty, while we are worried about the danger of money!

4. Lack of Respect Is Evident When You Ridicule And Laugh At Financial Mentors. “Dr. Mike, I think some preachers are obsessed with money. That is all they talk about. There is one preacher on television that talks about nothing else. He never talks about healing or the coming of Christ, or family problems. His whole *focus* is money.”

Then, answer these simple questions.

Are you angry at your dentist because he refuses

to cut your hair? Of course not. That is not his *focus*.

Do you fire your lawyer because he will not mow your grass? Of course not. Legal work is his calling.

You see, *every minister* is given a *different Assignment*. Usually, they contain a unique and uncommon anointing (a Divine enablement) for that particular revelation of Wisdom. If you truly respected money, you would leap with joy at the discovery of any man of God who could help you move away from poverty into the Land of Plenty.

5. Lack of Respect For Money Is Obvious.

When you make simplistic, sneering and belittling statements such as, “Money will not make you happy,” you have sown a Seed of disrespect.

Well, poverty will not make you happy either. There is not even a relationship between the two.

Money is not necessary because it makes you happy. *Money is necessary because it solves problems.* “A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things,” (Ecclesiastes 10:19).

If you treat someone wrongfully, they will *move away* from you. When you disrespect someone, they may *never enter* your door again.

When you disrespect money, your ability to *attract* it will vanish.

6. You Must Recognize That Money Is A Tool.

Your financial Harvest will enable you to help your family, loved ones, and participate in great civic projects such as a hospital, the Red Cross, the March of Dimes or whatever charity is close to your heart. Money is a *tool* because it enables you to buy the things for your children that educate them, excite them and strengthen their lives.

7. Money Is A Weapon Against Ignorance.

Money *enables* you to go to college, secure a wonderful education, travel around the world, and be a *provider* instead of a parasite upon society.

8. Money Makes You A Burden-Bearer, Instead of A Burden. I have often asked those who belittle financial prosperity, "Tell me how many wonderful things that you can do with money. Then, provide me a list of the things that you could accomplish if you had plenty." They refuse to answer.

Respect money and it will leap toward your life like a deer.

Disrespect money and it will move away from you faster than lightning.

It is one of the main reasons people do not receive their financial Harvest. "For Wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that Wisdom giveth life to them that have it," (Ecclesiastes 7:12).

Why is money not respected? Usually, *when it comes too easily to someone*, they do not respect it. You often see this with your children. You give your child a quarter or a dollar. An hour later they do not know what happened to it. They lost it or gave it to someone. Why? It required nothing of them. It came too easy.

9. You Will Only Protect Something In Which You Have Invested. Teenagers rarely respect money. At this young age, they have not developed an obsession or passion for a great *goal* that requires it. Their house is provided by daddy. Their food is provided by mother. Their friends give them free transportation.

A father, who feels guilty over neglect, shoves a

\$20 bill in their hand to go to town. If a teenager has not labored and worked hard for their money, they will not develop a respect for it.

You will rarely fight for anything that comes easy.

10. Money Is Often Not Respected When Financial Mentors Have Not Been A Part of Your Life. *Everything must be taught.* Few things are truly instinctive in these areas.

If your mother or father experienced the “Depression,” they probably emphasize the importance of making “every cent count.” Often, wealthy children are careless with money, especially if it is handed to them instead of their laboring and working for it.

Recently, I read where one of the wealthiest men in America gives his child only \$5.00 a week. He said, “I want him to learn to respect money. If I make it too easy for him, he will not understand how difficult it is to generate.”

“I never think about money,” was the flippant remark one night by a young man. I looked at him. His clothes were purchased by his father. His car was given to him for a birthday. His college education was paid for by his parents. He was a parasite. He had never done anything significant with his life. It was no wonder to me that he had no respect for money. He had never earned any.

When you truly *recognize* how important the *gift* of money is, your *Harvest* will come toward you in miraculous ways.

98

WINNING

Winners Are Simply Ex-losers Who Got Mad.

They got tired of failure. The day you get angry at your failures is the day you start winning. *All Men Fail...The Great Ones Simply Get Back Up.* You do not drown by falling in the water, you drown by staying in the water. Winning does not start around you—it begins *inside* you.

It begins between your ears. Your mind is the drawing room for tomorrow's circumstances. *What Happens In Your Mind Will Happen In Time.*

Mind-management is the first priority to becoming a winner. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things," (Philippians 4:8).

When You Make Up Your Mind, It Is Just A Matter of Time.

4 Things You Must Do As A Winner

1. Rebuild Your Concept of God. What is your idea and opinion of God? Is He a harsh dictator or a loving Father? Read Luke 15 and you will find a description of the Father Jesus knew. The total

obedience and respect Jesus had for His Father indicates His “God-picture” resulted in trust. Go beyond what you have heard or imagined about Him. Read the Gospels. The *nature*, the *compassion*, the *love* of the Father is reflected through the activities and attitudes of Jesus Christ. Jesus took time to talk to an immoral woman...little children...a tax collector in a tree. People mattered to Jesus. Spend time developing the proper concept of God. Rebuild the mind-photo that *strengthens your faith* toward Him. By reading books, listening to cassette tapes and sharing your love with others, you will correct and enlarge your picture of God.

2. Recognize The Limitations of Satan.

Certainly, there is a need to understand the damage of demonic influence. However, through The Word you will understand the limitations of their efforts. Satan is a *liar...a deceiver...a manipulator*. I might add that he is a *loser*. He is an ex-employee of Heaven who got “fired.” He is headed for total destruction. He is under the dominion of the believer, who is a joint-heir with Christ, Who has, “Put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,” (Ephesians 1:22). Satan and the demonic forces are beneath us. (See Romans 8:37.) Remember, *you are the winner!* When you feel you are at your lowest, you are *still* “on top of the devil!”

3. Understand The Needs of Others.

Two classes of people who received attention from Christ were: *First*, people who received His ministry and His work. Good examples are Zacchaeus in Luke 19:2 and the Samaritan woman in John 4:9. *Secondly*, people who ministered to Him. Mary and Martha illustrate this in Luke 10:38.

Jesus' dealing with the Pharisees revealed they had contempt, irritation and absolutely no real respect for Him. They neither ministered to Him, nor received ministry from Him.

Jesus saw people as needs that He could meet. If they received Him, miracles happened. If rebellion surfaced, He detached Himself from them. He knew how to say no when necessary. *Cultivate discernment of people in your life.* If you are a positive influence on them, it will show. If you are not lifting them, chances are, they are a negative influence on you. "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed," (Proverbs 13:20).

Jesus could not spend time with everyone. He never surrendered "Zacchaeus Time" to be abused by the Pharisees. Develop the ability to listen to God regarding the part someone is to play in your life.

4. Rebuild A Good Picture of Yourself. *Stop Looking At Where You Have Been And Start Looking At Where You Can Be.* Parents, schooling and friends condition us. We become failure-conscious. Sometimes we become more problem-oriented than possibility-oriented. We concentrate on our weaknesses and lose confidence and self-respect. Begin to concentrate on your strong points. *Sometimes what you consider a weakness is actually a God-implemented gift.*

Let me illustrate. I have always loved to talk. My father was and is a very quiet man. I admired that quality. I tried with little success to retrain my mouth to be quiet! I memorized Scriptures about talking too much. I suppressed my opinion in conversations. Oh, I admired and tried to emulate shy, timid, quiet friends. *Impossible.* I had to talk! Through my mother and

father's gentle and tender nurturing, they helped me see that God had given me a gift to express myself and make truths clear. I could study and work to make my words edifying and uplifting...this was a strong point. Since then, I have simply asked the Lord to give me words that will bless those around me!

Listen to a preacher who wrote one-half of the New Testament:

- ▶ “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me,” (Philippians 4:13).
- ▶ “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us,” (Romans 8:37).

Paul had the right concept of *God*.

Paul had the right concept of *satan*.

Paul had the right concept of *people*.

Paul had the right concept of *himself*.

Stop talking about your lack. Be thankful for gifts God has given to you! Think good things about yourself and others. *Stop complaining!* Project enthusiasm! Avoid negative and depressing conversations. *Dominate your turf!* Be aggressively happy!

Recently, I was in a garden of beautiful flowers. While admiring their beauty, I noticed the gardener pulling up weeds that had grown up around them. As weeds choke out the life of a beautiful flower, there are things that we must remove in order to grow. To guarantee maturity and a winning life, you must eliminate the weeds.

6 Things You Must Eliminate From Your Life To Have A Winning Life

1. **Wrong Relationships.** Ask yourself: “Will

this friendship bring me closer to Jesus? Or will it soil the beauty of what God has begun?" Get rid of anything that clouds your mind or spirit.

2. Moral Impurity. Nothing can destroy your testimony and inner joy faster than immorality. When satan plants the "seed" of a bad thought in your mind, *immediately resist it*. Exercise your authority! Say: "Satan, I bind you and resist your ungodly suggestions. I am a child of God walking in the power of The Holy Spirit. I cast your thought back to you. I am a new creation in Jesus!" Immediately, thank God aloud for good, wholesome thoughts.

3. Ungodly Mind-Manipulators. We are influenced greatly by what we see and hear. "Mine eye affecteth mine heart," (Lamentations 3:51). Depressing television shows, sensual music and suggestive books guarantee spiritual suicide. Replace these by saturating your life and home with wholesome books, tapes and Christian materials.

4. Negative Conversation. Words minister life or death. (See Proverbs 18:21.) Put off the former conversation. "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers," (Ephesians 4:29). Insist on positive and uplifting conversation. "To him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God," (Psalm 50:23).

5. Bitterness And All Other Sin. In Ephesians, Paul tells us: "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you," (Ephesians 4:31). Bitterness is like a cancerous sore that deteriorates the inward soul of man. Sin is the deceptive snare that poisons the possi-

bilities of a would-be winner. It promises roses, but delivers thorns. Repent and ask God to pour out His love through you to others.

6. Time-Wasters. God is a Planner. From the creation of a world in seven days, including a rest zone, to a scheduled rapture, even a marriage supper of the Lamb projected thousands of years in advance...from these, it is easy to conclude that our Father is a Master in details, goal-setting, priorities and order. Learn to avoid nonessentials and energy wasters. *Make your time count:* “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil,” (Ephesians 5:15-16). Chart your course hourly...daily...monthly. *Stay on target.* Schedule every small success...*literally*...time spent with God, others and yourself.

Those Who Are Unwilling To Lose, Rarely Do.

Circle today's date on your calendar. Declare that the happiest and most productive days of your life are beginning today! Never, never, *never quit*. You may be minutes from your miracle.

Get ready to enjoy the winning life.

99

WISDOM



The Word of God Is The Wisdom of God.

“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get Wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding,” (Proverbs 4:7).

12 Facts About Wisdom

1. Wisdom Is The Master Key To All The Treasures of Life. “And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life...Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee,” (2 Chronicles 1:11-12).

“In Whom are hid all the treasures of Wisdom and knowledge,” (Colossians 2:3).

2. The Fear of God Is The Beginning of Wisdom. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding,” (Proverbs 9:10).

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom,” (Psalm 111:10).

“And unto man He said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is Wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding,” (Job 28:28).

3. Wisdom Is More Powerful Than Weapons of War. “Wisdom is better than weapons of war,” (Ecclesiastes 9:18). “And Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure,” (Isaiah 33:6).

“...but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them,” (Proverbs 12:6).

4. Right Relationships Increase Your Wisdom. “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed,” (Proverbs 13:20).

“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners,” (1 Corinthians 15:33).

“Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself,” (1 Timothy 6:5).

5. Wisdom Is Better Than Jewels or Money. “For Wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it,” (Proverbs 8:11).

“Happy is the man that findeth Wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies; and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her,” (Proverbs 3:13-15).

“For the price of Wisdom is above rubies,” (Job 28:18).

“How much better is it to get Wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver,” (Proverbs 16:16).

6. The Wise Welcome Correction. “Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and

he will love thee. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning," (Proverbs 9:8-9).

"The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise. He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding," (Proverbs 15:31-32).

"My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of His correction: For whom the Lord loveth He correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth," (Proverbs 3:11-12).

7. Wisdom Creates Currents of Favor And Recognition Toward You. "Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her," (Proverbs 4:8).

"Blessed is the man that heareth Me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord," (Proverbs 8:34-35).

"My son, forget not my law; So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man," (Proverbs 3:1, 4).

8. Wisdom Guarantees Promotion. "By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth," (Proverbs 8:15-16).

"And thou, Ezra, after the Wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know them not," (Ezra 7:25).

"Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She

shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee,” (Proverbs 4:8-9).

9. When You Increase Your Wisdom You Will Increase Your Wealth. “Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures,” (Proverbs 8:18, 21).

“Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour,” (Proverbs 3:16).

“Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in His commandments. Wealth and riches shall be in his house,” (Psalm 112:1, 3).

“The crown of the wise is their riches,” (Proverbs 14:24).

10. Wisdom Makes Your Enemies Helpless Against You. “For I will give you a mouth and Wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist,” (Luke 21:15).

“When a man’s ways please the Lord, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him,” (Proverbs 16:7).

“For Wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence,” (Ecclesiastes 7:12).

“For the Lord giveth Wisdom: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, To deliver thee from the strange woman,” (Proverbs 2:6, 12, 16).

11. Wisdom Can Be Imparted By The Laying On of Hands of A Man of God. “Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us,” (2 Timothy 1:6, 14).

“And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the Spirit

of Wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him,” (Deuteronomy 34:9).

“Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. And they were not able to resist *the Wisdom* and the Spirit by which he spake,” (Acts 6:6, 8, 10).

12. The Word of God Is Your Source of Wisdom. “Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. For this is your Wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations,” (Deuteronomy 4:5-6).

“Thou *through Thy commandments* hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for Thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Thy precepts,” (Psalm 119:98-100).

“For the Lord giveth *Wisdom*: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding,” (Proverbs 2:6).

Sometimes The Smallest Key Unlocks The Greatest Treasures. A simple statement can answer a hundred questions. Words of others bring *answers* to me. Words have often brought *healing* to me. Words *unlock* a flood of blessings.

Here are some Wisdom Keys God has given me in the first half century of my life. These keys could make your life easier than it has ever been before.

It is possible that one of these keys could stop a hundred heartaches in your life and bring a thousand days of joy!

101 Wisdom Keys

1. Never Complain About What You Permit.
2. The Problem That Infuriates You The Most Is The Problem God Has Assigned You To Solve.
3. Those Who Unlock Your Compassion Are Those To Whom You Have Been Assigned.
4. What You Are Willing To Walk Away From Determines What God Will Bring To You.
5. The Secret of Your Future Is Hidden In Your Daily Routine.
6. Your Rewards In Life Are Determined By The Kind of Problems You Are Willing To Solve For Others.
7. When You Want Something You Have Never Had, You Have Got To Do Something You Have Never Done.
8. All Men Fall, The Great Ones Get Back Up.
9. Intolerance of Your Present Creates Your Future.
10. Those Who Cannot Increase You Will Inevitably Decrease You.
11. You Will Never Leave Where You Are Until You Decide Where You Would Rather Be.
12. You Will Only Have Significant Success With Something That Is An Obsession.
13. Give Another What He Cannot Find Anywhere Else And He Will Keep Returning.
14. Your Assignment Is Not Your Decision But Your Discovery.
15. When Fatigue Walks In, Faith Walks Out.
16. If What You Hold In Your Hand Is Not Enough To Be Your Harvest, Make It Your Seed.
17. You Will Never Change What You Believe Until

Your Belief System Cannot Produce Something You Want.

18. You Will Only Be Pursued For The Problems You Solve.
19. Champions Are Willing To Do Things They Hate To Create Something Else They Love.
20. You Will Never Possess What You Are Unwilling To Pursue.
21. The Only Reason Men Fail Is Broken Focus.
22. Stop Looking At Where You Have Been, And Start Looking At Where You Can Be.
23. You Will Only Be Remembered For Two Things, The Problems You Solve or The Ones You Create.
24. Those Who Transfer Knowledge Are Also Capable of Transferring Error.
25. Your Seed Is The Only Influence You Have Over Your Future.
26. Loneliness Is Not The Absence of Affection, But The Absence of Direction.
27. You Cannot Be What You Are Not, But You Can Become What You Are Not.
28. False Accusation Is The Last Stage Before Supernatural Promotion.
29. Your Seed Is A Photograph of Your Faith.
30. What You Repeatedly Hear, You Will Eventually Believe.
31. God Never Consults Your Past To Determine Your Future.
32. Satan Always Attacks Those Next In Line For A Promotion.
33. Power Is The Ability To Walk Away From Something You Desire To Protect Something Else You Love.

34. Anything That Does Not Change You Is Unnecessary In Your Life.
35. When You Discover Your Assignment, You Will Discover Your Enemy.
36. What You Respect, You Will Attract.
37. Men Decide Their Habits; Their Habits Decide Their Future.
38. You Cannot Correct What You Are Unwilling To Confront.
39. The Proof of Desire Is Pursuit.
40. Crisis Always Occurs At The Curve of Change.
41. If Time Heals, God Is Unnecessary.
42. Your Seed Is Anything That Benefits Another While Your Harvest Is Anything That Benefits You.
43. Satan's Favorite Entry Point Into Your Life Is Always Through Someone Close To You.
44. What You Hate Reveals What You Were Created To Correct.
45. Losers Focus On What They Are Going Through, While Champions Focus On What They Are Going To.
46. When You Let Go of What Is In Your Hand, God Will Let Go of What Is In His Hand.
47. Pain Is Not An Enemy, But Merely The Proof That One Exists.
48. When God Wants To Bless You, He Puts A Person In Your Life. When Satan Wants To Destroy You, He Puts A Person In Your Life.
49. Currents of Favor Begin To Flow The Moment That You Solve A Problem For Someone.
50. The Seed That Leaves Your Hand Never Leaves Your Life, But Enters Your Future Where It

Multiplies.

51. Each Act of Obedience Shortens The Distance To Any Miracle You Are Pursuing.
52. The Quality of Your Preparation Determines The Quality of Your Performance.
53. Champions Make Decisions That Create The Future They Desire; Losers Make Decisions That Create The Present They Desire.
54. Creativity Is The Search For Options. Concentration Is The Elimination of Them.
55. Seed-Faith Is Sowing What You Have Been Given To Create What You Have Been Promised.
56. The Seasons of Your Life Will Change Every Time You Decide To Use Your Faith.
57. Someone Is Always Observing You Who Is Capable of Greatly Blessing You.
58. Giving Is The Proof You Have Conquered Greed.
59. The Season For Research Is Not The Season For Marketing.
60. What You Fail To Master In Your Life Will Eventually Master You.
61. Go Where You Are Celebrated Instead of Where You Are Tolerated.
62. The Broken Become Masters At Mending.
63. Your Significance Is Not In Your Similarity To Another, But In Your Point of Difference From Another.
64. You Will Always Pursue The Friendship That Solves Your Most Immediate Problem.
65. The Worth of Any Relationship Can Be Measured By Its Contributions To Your Priorities.
66. You Will Never Conquer What You Refuse To Hate.
67. Injustice Is Only As Powerful As Your Memory of

It.

68. Every Relationship In Your Life Is A Current Moving You Toward Your Dreams or Away From Them.
69. You Will Never Be Promoted Until You Have Become Over-Qualified For Your Present Assignment.
70. Money Is Merely A Reward For Solving Problems.
71. Your Reaction To Someone In Trouble Will Determine God's Reaction To You The Next Time You Get In Trouble.
72. What You Can Tolerate, You Cannot Change.
73. The Waves of Yesterday's Disobedience Will Splash On The Shores of Today For A Season.
74. You Will Never Outgrow Warfare, You Must Simply Learn To Fight.
75. Nothing Is Ever As Bad As It First Appears.
76. The Evidence of God's Presence Far Outweighs The Proof of His Absence.
77. Patience Is The Weapon That Forces Deception To Reveal Itself.
78. One Hour In The Presence of God Will Reveal Any Flaw In Your Most Carefully Laid Plan.
79. Never Spend More Time On A Critic Than You Would Give To A Friend.
80. Those Who Do Not Respect Your Assignment, Disqualify Themselves For Relationship.
81. You Will Never Reach The Palace Talking Like A Peasant.
82. Struggle Is The Proof You Have Not Yet Been Conquered.
83. Never Discuss Your Problem With Someone Incapable of Solving It.

84. Greatness Is Not The Pursuit of Perfection, But The Pursuit of Completion.
85. Never Rewrite Your Theology To Accommodate A Tragedy.
86. The Greatest Quality of Success On Earth Is The Willingness To Become.
87. Warfare Always Surrounds The Birth of A Miracle.
88. Failure Is Not An Event, But Merely An Opinion.
89. You Are Never As Far From A Miracle As It First Appears.
90. What You See Determines What You Desire.
91. The Atmosphere You Permit Determines The Product You Produce.
92. Prosperity Is Simply Having Enough of God's Provisions To Complete His Instructions For Your Life.
93. God Will Never Advance Your Instructions Beyond Your Last Act of Disobedience.
94. Anger Is The Birthplace For Solutions.
95. Those Who Do Not Respect Your Time Will Not Respect Your Wisdom Either.
96. Discontent Is The Catalyst For Change.
97. Crisis Is Merely Concentrated Information.
98. Silence Cannot Be Misquoted.
99. Those Who Created The Pain of Yesterday Do Not Control The Pleasure of Tomorrow.
100. When You Change Your Focus, You Will Change Your Feelings.
101. What You Make Happen For Others, God Will Make Happen For You.

► *Wisdom Is The Law of God Applied.* “Keep therefore and do them: for this is your

Wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people,”

(Deuteronomy 4:6).

- *Wisdom Is The Scriptural Solution To Any Problem You Are Facing.* “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get Wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding,”
(Proverbs 4:7).

Pursue Wisdom...today.

RECOMMENDED INVESTMENTS:

Wisdom For Winning (Book/B-01/228 pg/\$10)

Wisdom For Crisis Times (Book/B-40/112 pg/\$9)

100

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Your Assignment Is Not Your Decision—But Your Discovery.

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit,” (Joel 2:28-29).

“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy,” (Acts 2:16-18).

I believe we live in one of the most exciting times in human history. God is using men and women in the greatest ways we have ever seen or imagined: especially in the area of great women teachers, preachers, evangelists, missionaries and various other areas.

Someone once said that seven out of ten foreign missionaries are women. It is probably true. The sensitivity, the compassion and the ability to feel the

heartbeat of humanity rests in an extraordinary way on the female creation.

Take a minute and consider how God is using women like Joyce Meyer, Maude Aimee Humbard, Marilyn Hickey, Gloria Copeland, Joyce Landorf Heatherly, Freda Lindsay, Joy Dawson, Aquila Wilkins Nash, Nora Lamb, Frances Hunter, Vicki Jamison-Peterson, Nancy Harmon and a host of others. Look at the past years of incredible women of God such as Aimee McPherson, Kathryn Kuhlman, Roxanne Brandt and Corrie Ten Boom. Yes, God has always used women in ministry.

It is true there are still a few theologians who lack understanding in this area. They have created a distortion of 1 Corinthians 14:34 concerning “Let your women keep silence in the churches.” I will not address the obvious misinterpretation of this Scripture in this encyclopedia. Just a note, however; if it is as these theologians teach, then Paul contradicts himself, “But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head,” (1 Corinthians 11:5). What about the Scripture in 1 Corinthians 14:35? “And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home.” From 1 Corinthians 7, it is plain that many of the women had unsaved husbands. How could they be taught at home if they waited to ask questions from an unbelieving husband who did not understand the things of God? “But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man,” (1 Corinthians 2:15).

No, the Bible is filled with too many proofs that the anointing of God rests on women in the ministry, just as it does on men.

Biblical Examples of Women Used By God

Look at a few examples in the Scriptures. In Judges 4 and 5, Deborah was mightily used of God. Huldah, a prophetess in 2 Kings 22:14; Miriam, the sister of Moses, is listed as a prophetess in Exodus 15:20-21. In Luke 2:36-38, Anna was a prophetess who served in the temple. We see Mary, the mother of Jesus, giving instructions in John 2:5. Phillip's daughters prophesied in Acts 21:9. Junia appears to be an apostle in Romans 16:7. Priscilla was a well-known teacher (Romans 16:3) traveling with her husband, Aquila, who appears to support her calling. Hannah, the prophetess, praised God in the temple in a great thanksgiving prayer (1 Samuel 2:1-10). David appointed women to prophesy in song in 1 Chronicles 25:5-6.

Tradition Is Being Broken

Sadly, history records tremendous injustices shown to women. I am thankful for a Heavenly Father who treasures His creation of womanhood and uses those who commit their lives, callings, gifts and talents for the ministry of Jesus Christ. God is still breaking down the walls of tradition and ritualism around the world.

Just as Jesus broke many rabbinical customs when He offered the Samaritan woman a drink of water, so we are "growing up" in our knowledge of God using women in the ministry.

When God's power, anointing and approval

obviously rests upon women in ministry, it is the epitome of egotism and ignorance for men to stand against Him.

What Are Your Limitations?

I must speak from the depths of my heart, directly and honestly. I really believe that any limitations you feel in your ministry as a woman is mainly within your own mind and sensitivity to rejection. I urge you, do not let satan build up “mental monsters” in your mind. Certainly, you will confront prejudice. However, prejudice exists in every strata of society: too fat, too skinny, too young, too old. Prejudice is just another challenge to overcome.

A woman approached me recently in a Bible college. With tears streaming down her face, she said, “I am called into the ministry, but I cannot go. No one wants to hear a woman preacher.” I replied, “Look at Marilyn Hickey.” She responded, “Yes, but she has a husband who understands her calling.” Though I tried to explain to her that God’s plan can be carried out with proper timing, effort and thoughtfulness, her mind was convinced...she was a “woman,” and she felt that she would have to live behind the walls of tradition for the rest of her life.

My mother was a “woman preacher,” and a teacher. Throughout the years of her life, several pastors often asked her to come and preach. Occasionally, she accepted. However, she never quite broke away from her obligation to her children and family, but was still mightily used of God along with my father’s ministry. Let me offer these few suggestions.

8 Suggestions For Women In Ministry

1. Allow God To Build Your Character. Develop your “people skills” through the rejection and prejudices of others. Allow God time. Cultivate warmth, kindness and your communication abilities.

2. Be Willing To Start Where You Are. Excel in your present position. I have talked to a few young ladies who did not want to serve in a lower capacity as an assistant or associate to another minister. They refuse to be a female “Silas or Timothy” and learn through someone else. They want to become “full-time” overnight. It rarely happens that way for any minister, male or female.

3. Become Adaptable Until Other Ministers And Churches Have An Understanding of Your Calling. What do I mean by this? One lady minister told me that she refrained from emphasizing the word preacher. She had noticed it conjured up in the imaginations of some male preachers a “screeching, screaming woman” in the pulpit. They had previous bad experiences and could not adjust until she was willing to use a term they could understand, such as seminar teacher. After they heard her, those walls were dissolved. Others may use the phrase, “I want to give my testimony;” one of those “becoming all things to all men” situations.

4. Print Brochures Which Strengthen Your Credibility. Print an inexpensive but helpful pamphlet describing your calling and containing recommendations by respected ministers. This will help in establishing your position as a God-called minister among others.

5. Become Familiar With The Ministry of Other Recognized Women Preachers And Teachers. Study and review the answers they have discovered to the questions you have. Every ministry is unique, but you can learn a lot from them.

6. Stop Making Derogatory Remarks About Yourself or “Women Preachers.” In other words, do not aid the enemy. Stop being defensive.

7. Cultivate Good Speaking Skills. Unfortunately, there appears to be better women speakers in the secular field than in the church! Many lady ministers sometimes ignore principles of good speech and communication, thinking that the anointing of The Holy Spirit will suffice for their lack of talent or gift and skills.

8. Never, Never, Never Apologize For God’s Calling Upon Your Life. You belong to Him. You have no choice but to obey His command. You owe no apology to anyone!

3 Cautions For Women In Ministry

1. Avoid Sensuous Dress. You can be attractive, professional and elegant without being a distraction and drawing sensuous attention to yourself. Satan uses everything he can to stain your efforts. Do not allow him an entry point in that area.

2. Maintain A Traveling Companion As Often As Possible. It may be a nephew, father, niece or sister, but keep someone with you for emotional and spiritual support. This is usually expected these days. It is never wise for a lady to travel alone under any circumstances, in my personal opinion.

3. Be Sensitive To The Expectations And Procedures At Any Church Where You Speak. I know some who have hurt their ministry by wearing jewelry and makeup to excess. It is an unnecessary burden that a little sacrifice on your part can remove. “Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak,” (Romans 14:19, 21).

In Conclusion

I believe in *women in the ministry*— preaching, teaching, sharing, singing and administration. I encourage you to cultivate your skills, your abilities and be gracious in regards to your calling. You do not have to oversell anyone. God will go before you. I say to you what God told Jeremiah:

“Then the Word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. Then said I, Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a [woman] child. But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a [woman] child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord. Then the Lord put forth His hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put My words in thy mouth. See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down,

and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant. Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. Then said the Lord unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten My word to perform it,” (Jeremiah 1:4-12).

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WORD OF GOD

The Word of God Is Your Life.

The Word of God is the greatest Book on earth.

It is the *revelation* of God. It is Truth. It is holy. It is powerful. It heals. It energizes. It corrects.

It changes YOU.

The Word is the only Force that changes those who hear you.

I was about twenty-three or twenty-four years old. The pastor had built one of the strongest churches ever raised up in Houston, Texas.

Late one night, I ventured a question. “Would you critique and analyze my ministry for me? I respect you and truly want you to tell me what I am doing wrong or how I could improve my ministry.” (Actually, I wanted him to affirm me and tell me all the things he liked about my ministry, but, he did not do that. He responded to the question I had asked him.)

“Mike, in my early years, I had a ministry much like your own. Then, I went to England. The people patiently listened for a few months. Then, they began to approach me and tell me they appreciated my stories and illustrations, but they really had a desire to simply hear what The Word of God said about their problems and the solutions it offered.”

He continued, “It hurt me deeply, but, when I went

to prayer, God began to show me how to help the people become *dependent* upon The Word of God for their answers and solutions. Parables and stories were to confirm and reveal how The Word of God was to be applied. Yet, they never got tired of hearing The Word of God and specific Scriptures that applied to their lives.”

He implied that my messages contained very few Scriptures. He was correct. I cringed. It hurt. I was devastated emotionally. However, I was honest with myself and agreed that my messages were really two or three arguments and illustrations instead of the actual Word of God.

The Uncommon Minister must develop an obsession for understanding the mind of God. You see, the mind of God is revealed through The Word of God. His opinion of sin is revealed in The Word. His opinion of homosexuality is revealed in The Word. His opinion of prosperity is revealed in The Word. His guidelines for a productive life are revealed in The Word.

Here Are 5 Helpful Keys Every Minister Should Remember

1. Your Bible Is Your Wisdom Book, Not Your Sermon Book. Many preachers only read the Scriptures while searching for a sermon for their people. It is not a part of their personal life.

2. Read The Word Daily. *Habit Will Take You Farther Than Desire.* Habitual exposure to the heart of God will create incredible results. When you read the biographies of uncommon spiritual leaders such as Smith Wigglesworth and others—they had a *daily*

obsession for The Word of God. It quickened and energized them. It lifted their spirits during times of oppression. It kept them *focused*. The Word *fueled* their hatred of sin and unleashed an *uncommon faith* in their own goals and Assignment.

3. Personalize Your Bible By Marking The Scriptures Impressing You. I change Bibles each year. Every Bible has a different marking system. This year, I highlight in *yellow* every Scripture that I have memorized. *Red* marking is used for any truth concerning The Holy Spirit or The Word of God. *Green* marking concerns finances. *Blue* underlining occurs when a Scripture is worthy of reviewing, memorizing or using in a specific study.

4. Tape Important Information On The Blank Pages In Your Bible. One day, Lowell Lundstrom, a long-time friend, opened his Bible to me. He had taped poems, biographical comments and powerful outlines from others throughout his Bible. His Bible was one of the most intriguing, fascinating and delightful books I had ever seen anyone use. It *excited* me. *Personalize* your Bible as your personal Success Handbook any way that you desire.

5. Establish A Daily System For Reading Your Bible. Several exist. Many years ago, I would read a small book (James or Titus) over and over again. Within a month, I would read the book of James forty or fifty times. Imagine the incredible truths that began to leap off the pages! What you keep reading continually, you understand more completely.

Topical Study is selecting a particular topic and exhausting your research on it. Each morning for thirty days, I have taken a subject such as healing, the blood

of Christ, or prosperity and marked every Scripture relating to it. It deepens your knowledge and enables you to even become an authority on that topic within a few months.

Reading the Bible chronologically, Genesis through Revelation, is the most common way of reading the Scriptures. Three chapters a day and five on Sunday enable you to read the Bible through once a year. For many years, I have read forty chapters a day. This enables me to complete the Bible every thirty days. It provides an overview that is remarkable. Whatever you do, *establish a system*. Change it when you desire, but always have a system for reading The Word. *Know Your Bible*.

God's Words On Blessings

1. “But if thou shalt indeed obey His voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries. For Mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off. Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images. And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and He shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil. I will send My fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn

their backs unto thee. And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee. I will not drive them out from before thee in one year: lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land,” (Exodus 23:22-30).

2. “If ye walk in My statutes, and keep My commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land. And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish My covenant with you. And ye shall eat old store, and bring forth the old because of the new. And I will set My tabernacle among you: and My soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be My people,” (Leviticus 26:3-7, 9-12).

3. “God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?” (Numbers 23:19).

4. “Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the

Lord thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which He sware unto thy fathers: And He will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: He will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which He sware unto thy fathers to give thee. Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle. And the Lord will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee,” (Deuteronomy 7:12-15).

5. “For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass. When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which He hath given thee. Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping His commandments, and His judgments, and His statutes, which I command thee this day,” (Deuteronomy 8:7-11).

6. “But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God; for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day,” (Deuteronomy 8:18).

7. “And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto My commandments which I command

you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full,” (Deuteronomy 11:13-15).

8. “For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, and to cleave unto Him; Then will the Lord drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves. Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be. There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the Lord your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as He hath said unto you. Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known,” (Deuteronomy 11:22-28).

9. “And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee,

if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God. Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto Himself, as He hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in His ways. And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of thee. And the Lord shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers to give thee. The Lord shall open unto thee His good treasure, the Heaven to give the rain unto thy land in His season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee

this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them,” (Deuteronomy 28:1-14).

10. “Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do,” (Deuteronomy 29:9).

11. “And the Lord thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the Lord will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers: If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul,” (Deuteronomy 30:9-10).

12. “And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to My word. And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. So he went and did according unto the word of the Lord: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook. And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have

commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. And she said, As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse; and, behold I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the Lord of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth. And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which He spake by Elijah," (1 Kings 17:1-16).

13. "And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house; and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold. So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning:

for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. He had also seven sons and three daughters,” (Job 42:10-13).

14. “Now know I that the Lord saveth His anointed; he will hear Him from His holy Heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God. They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright,” (Psalm 20:6-8).

15. “Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waiteth for the Lord; He is our help and our shield,” (Psalm 33:18-20).

16. “This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them. O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him. O fear the Lord, ye His saints: for there is no want to them that fear Him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing,” (Psalm 34:6-10).

17. “Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour My righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of His servant,” (Psalm 35:27).

18. “Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the Heavens; and Thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; Thy judgments

are a great deep: O Lord, Thou preservest man and beast. How excellent is Thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of Thy house; and Thou shalt make them drink of the river of Thy pleasures. For with Thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see light,” (Psalm 36:5-9).

19. “Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass,” (Psalm 37:3-5).

20. “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and he delighteth in His way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholdeth him with His hand. I have been young, and now am old: yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread,” (Psalm 37:23-25).

21. “Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: Thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water: Thou preparest them corn, when Thou hast so provided for it. Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly; Thou settlest the furrows thereof: Thou makest it soft with showers: Thou blessest the springing thereof. Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and Thy paths drop fatness. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side. The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn: they shout for joy, they also sing,” (Psalm 65:9-13).

22. “Let the people praise Thee, O God; let all the

people praise Thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him,” (Psalm 67:5-7).

23. “Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation,” (Psalm 68:19).

24. “Yea, the Lord shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase,” (Psalm 85:12).

25. “Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; To shew that the Lord is upright: He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him,” (Psalm 92:13-15).

26. “Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name: bring an offering, and come into His courts,” (Psalm 96:8).

27. “Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; Who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things, so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s,” (Psalm 103:1-5).

28. “He watereth the hills from His chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth; And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man’s heart,” (Psalm 104:13-15).

29. “O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! in Wisdom hast Thou made them all: the earth is full of Thy riches. These wait all upon thee; that Thou mayest give them their meat in due season. That Thou givest them they gather; thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good,” (Psalm 104:24, 27-28).

30. “Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness,” (Psalm 107:8-9).

31. “Who is like unto the Lord our God, Who dwelleth on high. Who humbleth Himself to behold the things that are in Heaven, and in the earth! He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill; That He may set him with princes, even with the princes of His people. He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the Lord,” (Psalm 113:5-9).

32. “O Israel, trust thou in the Lord; He is their help and their shield. O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord: He is their help and their shield. Ye that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord: He is their help and their shield. The Lord hath been mindful of us: He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless them that fear the Lord, both small and great. The Lord shall increase you more and more, you and your children. Ye are blessed of the Lord which made Heaven and earth. The Heaven, even the Heavens, are the Lord’s; but the earth hath He given to the children of men,” (Psalm 115:9-16).

33. “Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in His ways. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well

with thee. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord. The Lord shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel," (Psalm 128:1-6).

34. "If thy children will keep My covenant and My testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon Thy throne for evermore. For the Lord hath chosen Zion; He hath desired it for His habitation. This is My rest for ever: here will I dwell: for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread. I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy," (Psalm 132:12-16).

35. "My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and He in Whom I trust; Who subdueth my people under me. That our garners may be full, affording all manner of store: that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets: That our oxen may be strong to labour; that there be no breaking in, nor going out; that there be no complaining in our streets. Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord," (Psalm 144:2, 13-15).

36. "Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down. The eyes of all wait upon Thee; and Thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest Thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of

every living thing,” (Psalm 145:13-16).

37. “For Wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. Counsel is Mine, and sound Wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength. By Me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By Me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth. I love them that love Me; and those that seek Me early shall find Me. Riches and honour are with Me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and My revenue than choice silver. I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: That I may cause those that love Me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures,” (Proverbs 8:11, 14-21).

38. “The Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but He casteth away the substance of the wicked. He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich,” (Proverbs 10:3-4).

39. “There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal souls shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself. He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it,” (Proverbs 11:24-26).

40. “The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it,” (Proverbs 10:22).

41. “By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life. He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed: for he giveth of his bread to the poor,” (Proverbs 22:4, 9).

42. "A faithful man shall abound with blessings," (Proverbs 28:20).

43. "He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse," (Proverbs 28:27).

44. "Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God," (Ecclesiastes 5:19).

45. "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good," (Ecclesiastes 11:1, 6).

46. "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. Then shall He give the rain of thy seed, that thou shalt sow the ground withal; and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plenteous: in that day shall thy cattle feed in large pastures," (Isaiah 30:21, 23).

47. "For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not: I will help thee. When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water," (Isaiah 41:13, 17-18).

48. "When thou passest through the waters, I will

be with thee: and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned: neither shall the flame kindle upon thee,” (Isaiah 43:2).

49. “For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour My Spirit upon thy seed, and My blessing upon thine offspring: And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses,” (Isaiah 44:3-4).

50. “And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day: And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not,” (Isaiah 58:10-11).

51. “And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of My people, and Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear,” (Isaiah 65:21-24).

52. “And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, saith the Lord,” (Jeremiah 31:14).

53. “The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, saith the Lord of hosts,” (Haggai 2:8).

54. “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse;

that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts,” (Malachi 3:10-12).

55. “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in Heaven give good things to them that ask Him,” (Matthew 7:7-11).

56. “And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life,” (Mark 10:29-30).

57. “And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you

that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him,” (Luke 11:9-13).

58. “Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows. And He said unto His disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will He clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom,” (Luke 12:6-7, 22-24, 27-32).

59. “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running

over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again,” (Luke 6:38).

60. “How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things,” (Romans 10:14-15).

61. “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; He hath given to the poor; His righteousness remaineth for ever. Now He that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God,” (2 Corinthians 9:6-12).

62. “But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus,” (Philippians 4:19).

63. “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth,” (3 John 2).



What You Finish Is
More Important
Than What You Begin.

-MIKE MURDOCK



102

WRITING YOUR BOOKS



God Sent His Son, But He Left His Book.

Another one of my big regrets, I wish I would have started sooner, writing and publishing books. I kept waiting for more “time.” I kept waiting to get that special three-month period when I could devote to “writing a book.” I kept waiting for extra “money.” I kept waiting until I was going to get “better at expressing myself.”

Do not wait. Go ahead. Start working and laboring.

It is true that, what you write today will not be what you will write five years from now. That is all right, too. What you will write when you are fifty years old will not be what you will write at sixty. Just get started. *Start writing.*

Set up an achievable schedule. One page a day? Then, you will write one three-hundred-page book every year! It will not only generate support for your ministry, but it will bless countless thousands of lives. One soul coming to Christ would be worth it all!

You might want to publish it yourself. A little note here: If it takes you \$5,000 to publish a book or \$15,000, you might go directly to friends and family...and ask them to sponsor your first book with a \$1,000 gift or whatever amount they are willing to give.

People appreciate the opportunity to be a part of something that helps others. (You can print their name in the front of the book in appreciation for them making it possible, or have a breakfast of “Thanksgiving” for them, etc.)

Here are two reasons I believe you should consider expanding your ministry through books and CDs: (1) You will be multiplying yourself and the message God has given you to thousands of others; (2) Plus it can provide an additional financial support base for your ministry. Both of these reasons are too powerful to neglect.

8 Helpful Hints In Writing

1. Establish A Clear-Cut Picture of What You Want To Write About.

2. Establish A Definite Deadline To Work Toward.

3. Do Not Be Discouraged When You Have To Rewrite Your Basic Draft Five or Six Times. Many of the great books in the world have been rewritten twenty, thirty or forty times. Do not be discouraged; that is part of it.

4. Knowledge Never Ceases, So Do Not Think That You Can Write One Book And Get It All Said. While you are writing, you will think of a hundred more things to put in the book. It will never end. Go ahead and do the best that you can with what you know today. Use the extra information for your next book.

5. Explore Other Books To Decide What Size Print, Format And Style of Writing You Would Like To Include In Your Personal Book.

Analyze sections such as acknowledgments, foreword, chapter titles, etc.

6. Find The Cover of A Book That You Like As An Example For Your Publisher or Printer, Illustrating Your Preferences. I have done this on my books. I would pore over the bookstands looking for a book that grabbed for my attention. Buy the book for \$3.95, tear off the cover, send it to the publisher as an “idea” to start from. By doing this, I saved hundreds of hours of trying mentally to transfer the vision inside my head to my printer or graphics friend.

7. Always Look For Ways To Cut Your Cost. (One color with “screens” instead of full color, etc.).

8. Always Include A Decision Page In Your Book. Every book you write should have a decision page, giving the reader an opportunity to make a decision for Christ. You do not know who is going to read that book. It is like a fisherman with all kinds of hooks. His desire...to catch many fish. Some will come through this method...Some through another approach.

Include a decision page—regardless of the book’s subject. Again, you do not know who is going to read that book.

Every time I am on television in a telethon, backslidden preachers come back to God and enter the ministry. The reason, we address this—the opportunity to make a decision. You are giving people a chance to *turn around and become*. You are creating a *door* for people to enter a relationship with God.

Remember: *God Sent His Son, But He Left His Book.*

What will you leave?

What will be your legacy?



Zeal Without Protocol Is Chaos.

-MIKE MURDOCK



103

ZEAL

Zeal Is Enthusiasm...Desire...Passion.

An ungodly man with passion and zeal can accomplish more tragedies, more heartache than a Christian without passion or zeal.

5 Facts To Understanding Zeal

1. What You Love Is A Clue To Something You Are Assigned By God To Do. *Pay attention to what you love.* What do you love to learn about? What do you love to think about? What do you love to write about? What do you love to talk about? What you *love* is a clue to a *gift* you contain. Michael Jordan loves to talk about basketball. Tiger Woods loves to talk about golf. Evander Holyfield loves to talk about boxing. Benny Hinn loves to talk about healing. Billy Graham loves to talk about salvation and commitment to Christ. Zeal is a signpost to a gift you contain. Zeal is often a clue to a Divine Assignment that you have received from the Lord.

2. Zeal Can Also Be Based On What You Hate. Terrorism is a very real threat. Men bond for different reasons. They *hate* the same things. They *love* the same things. *They have the same pain.* You will see a boy and a girl date who have had the same experience...“My wife left me.” “Really? My husband

left *me*.” “I have a child that gives me problems.” “Me, too. My child gives me problems.” So, people sometimes come together because of mutual pain or mutual gain, mutual goals or mutual fears. *Zeal is based on desire and memory*. The memory replays the past.

I want to talk about zeal in a good format first and then tell how it can get off base because satan loves to pervert the flow of your passion and your zeal. God Himself instructed us to have zeal and be zealous toward the things that we love. “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might,” (Ecclesiastes 9:10). “Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men,” (Proverbs 22:29).

3. God Wants Us To Have Zeal Toward Truth, His Word And The Wisdom of God. “But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the Lord charged you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments, and to cleave unto Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul,” (Joshua 22:5).

4. Zeal Is Contagious. One of the most phenomenal men in my life has been a friend of mine for 30 years. He is a precious man who pastors in Phoenix, Arizona, who, with his son, has a great work called “The Dream Center” in Los Angeles, California. These men are phenomenal men, precious men. *Their enthusiasm is contagious*. One night he and I were eating a hamburger at a little drive-in place after I preached for him in Phoenix, late one Sunday night. He started telling me about his soul-winning and the men who had come to Christ. He said, “Mike, this person...”

and he began to go through testimonies of the lives that had been changed. I had been with him on the platform earlier and he had pointed out people in the congregation that had been transformed. He said, "That lady was involved in terrible sin, but no more. That man was on drugs, and he came to Jesus." He is a soul winner, and his zeal is contagious. He is a phenomenal man that you want to be around all the time...because of his zeal.

5. There Are Some Incredible People of God That Are Full of Zeal For God, And That Is How You Know What Is In Their Heart. *What You Hear Determines What You Pursue.* What you pursue, reveals what you value most.

3 Threats To Zeal

There are some threats to zeal. You can be zealous without knowledge and create tragedy.

1. Zeal Without Respect For Protocol Will Cause Tragedies. Aggressiveness is admirable. Abraham though was too aggressive, and gave birth to Ishmael who became an enemy to Isaac. We are still trying to conquer those problems today.

2. Zeal Without Respect For Environment. Esther had zeal to save her people, but she embraced and respected the protocol of the palace and did not barge into the king's presence. If you have zeal, measure it with protocol. Remember Wisdom Key #68: *Every Environment Requires A Code of Conduct For Entering or Remaining In It.* "He that hasteth with his feet sinneth," (Proverbs 19:2). One of my precious friends, Dr. Robb Thompson, pastors a wonderful

church called *Family Harvest*. He and I were flying from Hong Kong to Manila, Philippines. I was anxious to get to my next destination. I was to preach that night for Dr. David Sumrall, a wonderful man of God in Manila. I was walking fast. *Got to go. Got to go.* We were almost missing the plane. He starts *sauntering* down the isle. I said, “Dr. Thompson, we’ve got a service to preach tonight.” He said, “I never run anywhere.” I said, “Well, I *do*.” So, I grabbed my stuff, took off, ran down the hall. I looked back and he was just sauntering along. I tried to catch the plane before we left. I got there and I was huffing and puffing. We went through security, we got on the plane and he *still* got there on time. Of course, I was trying to brag on myself. I said, “The reason you made it, is because I held up the plane. That’s why you made it.” As we were taking off, I looked around for my little black bag that I keep with me everywhere I go. It contained all my papers...it had my credit cards....it had everything. I could not find my black bag. I had left it back at security. *I never did get that black bag back.* Hurrying can be deadly.

3. Zeal Without Planning Is Destructive. It is wonderful to have a zeal for God. It is wonderful to have a zeal for *what* is right. It is also important to *do* things right. I have made a lot of mistakes in my life because I got over zealous. I got ahead of myself; there are some things you have to plan and do right. Zeal is a wonderful enthusiasm. Do not let anybody steal it from you. But, it *must be* tempered with Wisdom.

Nobody can steal your joy. Nobody can steal your zeal. Nobody can steal what God has put inside you. Ask God for a double portion of His Wisdom today.